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SIGHTS AND SCENES

OUR FATHERLAND.

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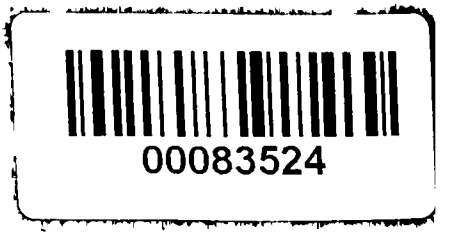
BY

THOMAS LACY,

WEXFORD.



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PREFACE.

From the success that attended the publication of my former small work, entitled "Home Sketches on both Sides of the Channel," of which the entire number of copies, comprising 1,500, has long since been sold, I am induced to make a second attempt; and, from having extended my sphere of observation, I flatter myself with the hope that my present book will be found more worthy of the reader's attention, and of the approbation of the public, than that which preceded it. In this work I have endeavoured to describe some of the most celebrated portions of my native country; and, as my visits to these respective districts have been of comparatively recent date, I entertain the hope that they will be attended with such advantages as to considerably enhance the value of the book.

I made my second journey to the south of Ireland in the year 1853, passing down the magnificent Shannon from Limerick, and proceeding, by Tarbert and Tralee, to Killarney, ever beautiful and ever new. Having spent a few days in this unrivalled neighbourhood, I then visited the delightful Glengariff, and passed on, by Bantry and Bandon, to Cork, steaming down the charming Lee to Queenstown, where I was so fortunate as to arrive while Her Majesty's great fleet was at anchor in that capacious harbour. Thence I proceeded to Youghal, and up the renowned Blackwater, visiting Lismore Castle, the grand seat of his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, and the remarkable and interesting Mount Melleray Abbey, in

the neighbourhood of Cappoquin. In the autumn of the same year I made my tour of the county of Wicklow, noticing the mines in the beautiful Vale of Ovoca; visiting the Seven Churches, the Devil's Glen, the Dargle, and Powerscourt, with its splendid waterfall; looking also at the towns of Wicklow, Arklow, Bray, Kingstown, Dalkey, Howth, and many fine features in Dublin and its vicinity. In the summer of 1854 I made my tour of the west, proceeding by Dublin, Mullingar, Athlone, and Galway; thence to Connemara, Joyce's Country, and the Killery Mountains, with their numerous bays, lakes, and bogs. In the autumn of this year I visited the north of Ireland, passing through Dublin, Drogheda, Dundalk, Newry, Warren Point, Rostrevor, and Carlingford; thence to Lisburn, Belfast, Carrickfergus, and along the bold and rugged shore of the North Channel to the Giant's Causeway; and thence to Coleraine, Londonderry, Omagh, and Armagh.

In the autumn of 1855 I renewed my visit to the north, stopping at Longford, Carrick-on-Shannon, Boyle, and Sligo; and thence to Ballyshannon, Donegal, Strabane, and Lifford, passing through the wild and desolate defile called Barnes Pass. From Strabane I proceeded to Londonderry, and thence to Ennishowen, formerly known as the O'Dogherty's Country, stopping at Moville, and visiting Greencastle, and other places of interest in that neighbourhood. On my return to Dublin, I started for Enniskillen, Monaghan, and Ballibay; thence passing homewards through Dundalk and Drogheda. The reminiscences connected with many of the northern towns are replete with interest, as from their proximity to the Scottish land, and in some instances to the boundaries of the English pale, they became the theatres of repeated conflicts between the O'Neills, the O'Donnels, and other Ulster chieftains, and the representatives of the English government. The greater their strength, whether natural or artificial, the more subject they were to suffer from the frequent, but unsuccessful, struggles that were made to throw off the neighbouring, but still foreign, yoke. The few snatches of history which are introduced in

reference to these and other places, and the dates and figures appertaining to them, have been selected from the most authentic and reliable sources.

In the summer of 1856 I paid a visit to the counties of Meath, Westmeath, Kildare, King's County, Queen's County, and Tipperary, portions of which I had not seen in my previous journeys; while in the autumn I again visited parts of Munster, passing through Waterford, Clonmel, and Kilkenny. In the autumn of the year 1859, in order to render myself acquainted with that part of Munster which I had not then seen, I proceeded to Limerick, Clare, and several interesting places on the western coast, and on the banks of the lordly Shannon. In 1860 I renewed my visit to Limerick and Clare; and in the autumn of 1861 I paid my last visit to the south, proceeding by Waterford, Carrick-on-Suir, Clonmel, Tipperary, and Cashel, to Cork.

Having thus endeavoured to render myself familiar, at least to a tolerable extent, with each quarter of the island, and availed myself of the best historical and topographical assistance at my command, I flatter myself that I am now in a fair position to appear as a descriptive tourist, with a reasonable hope to receive encouragement and support, and trust that the result of my labours will be looked upon with an eye of comparative favour by my friends and the public in general.

That the success of my work will be equal in proportion to the amount of trouble and expense incurred in collecting the materials for its construction, and to the reading and research essential for its compilation and final accomplishment, I can scarcely dare to hope. I must, therefore, trust to chance and circumstances for a favourable issue, and to the kindness and indulgence of those whose province it is to decide in matters of this kind.

My journeys to the various parts of Ireland here treated of, having been made at distant intervals, caused my labours to be considerably lightened, which, from the interest I took in the several objects that came under my observation, were rendered, I may say, those of love.

I incline to the belief that the time is favourable for the publication of a work of this description, and that, inasmuch as the people of England are every day evincing a disposition to see, with their own eyes, the natural beauties of our greatly favoured country, so in proportion will their curiosity lead them to avail themselves of the gleanings of those whose ambition it is to become instrumental in placing such information before them.

The extension of railways will, as a matter of course, greatly increase and facilitate the intercourse between both countries; while books of this kind will subserve to strengthen and keep alive those feelings of interest which are now developing themselves on the part of our wealthy neighbours, by opening up new scenes for their enjoyment and gratification.

A new impulse has been communicated to the natural desire which exists on the other side of the Channel to become acquainted with Ireland, by the late visit of Her Gracious Majesty to the Lakes of Killarney, which was one of the last happy excursions it was her lot to enjoy in the society of her Royal and Illustrious Consort, whose premature decease in the prime of life is felt as a national misfortune, and is deeply deplored by her loyal and devoted subjects, who are every day manifesting their heartfelt sympathy for the irretrievable loss she has sustained.

ERRATA.

Page 90, line 32, *for* "Angum" *read* "Augum."
Page 123, line 26, *for* "Allen" *read* "Abbot."
Page 144, line 18, *for* "1854" *read* "1844."
Page 192, line 44, *for* "Bectine" *read* "Bective."
Page 215, line 20, *for* "Hanratly" *read* "Hanratty."
Page 290, line 8, *for* "Mercury Castle" *read* "Markree Castle."
Page 449, headline, *for* "Meyers" *read* "Meylers."
Page 468, line 32, *for* "Bolabaum" *read* "Bolabawn."
Page 503, line 40, *for* "stones" *read* "stores."
Page 580, line 40, *for* "Glantworth" *read* "Glentworth."
Page 686, line 29, *for* "Camody's" *read* "Carmody's."
Subscription list, 1st column, *for* "Browne, Wm. Clonard" *read* "Browne, Wm., Esq., Little Clonard."
Subscription list, 6th column, *for* "Irvine, Edward T., J.P." *read* "Irvine, Edward T., Esq., J.P."
Subscription list, 11th column, *for* "Waddy, John, Esq., J.P." *read* "Waddy, John, M.D., J.P."

SIGHTS AND SCENES.

INTRODUCTION.

THAT Ireland can boast of a very high antiquity, is a truth admitted by authors of unquestionable veracity, both native and foreign. The testimony of these impartial witnesses is corroborated by her ancient language, her numerous monuments, including her round towers, her cromlechs, cairns, raths, and the other memorials of that ancient superstition which was conveyed by the first tribes who passed from Asia into Europe. These attestations, and the known Celtic origin of her early inhabitants, are sufficient to satisfy the most ambitious cravings of those who are anxious to establish for her a foundation equal to the oldest European countries.

In compiling the history of Ireland, many of our native authors, but more especially the Rev. Jeoffry Keating, drew their materials from the Psalters of Tara, and of Cashel, to the latter of which the renowned Cormac, King of Munster, and Bishop of Cashel, was a large contributor, and from the annals of Ulster, and the book of Armagh. But, as it would seem, for the purpose of gratifying an overweening anxiety to establish for Ireland an exceedingly remote antiquity, Dr. Keating followed closely the accounts rendered by the ancient bards and senachies, whose highly-coloured and exaggerated statements partake considerably of the marvellous. The early bards of this country, as we have reason to believe, occasionally departed from that strict line of truth, upon which alone it would be safe to found historical records, and, like the celebrated Homer, have not unfrequently sacrificed plain truths for the sake of national vanity and poetic effect. Adopting the bardic accounts, Dr. Keating states that the first inhabitants of Ireland were antediluvian, and consisted of a lady named Ceasar, her husband, and some followers, chiefly females. This lady, as he informs us, having been refused

accommodation in the ark by the patriarch Noah, caused a ship to be built for her own use, and that of her followers, in which vessel, together with her husband and retinue, she trusted herself to the mercy of the waves, and after having been for a long time, owing to the unskilfulness of her sailors, exposed upon the world of waters, forty days before the Flood, landed upon the coast of Ireland.

Very soon after her arrival on this island her husband died, and she, in great sorrow, removed to a place in Connaught, since called Ceasar's Wood, where, six days before the Deluge, she died of a broken heart. Dr. Keating, or at least his translator, has had the good sense to say that "this chronicle is not offered to the world as an infallible record, as it is impossible that the true origin of any kingdom, or people, can be discovered at such a remote distance of time." Several interesting particulars connected with the peopling of Ireland, and many other important transactions of those early times, are elucidated by quotations from the Irish bards and senachies, and are written in a strain of versification, which even in the translated form is sweet, euphonious, and expressive. These relate chiefly to the first inhabitants after the Flood, who were the immediate descendants of Japhet, the son of Noah. The generality of the Irish historians agree as to the names, countries, and the periods of the arrival of the respective early colonists; but the strain of romance and exaggeration in which these events are treated by Dr. Keating, is such as to throw an air of ridicule, upon what, in themselves, may be considered as coming within the range of authentic history. We, therefore, very often meet with statements in Keating's work, which the incredulity of the present age would be slow to adopt as matters of fact.

About 300 years after the Deluge, as we are informed, Partholan, the first adventurer, accompanied by his wife and his three sons, with their wives, and a retinue of about 1,000 followers, arrived in Ireland, and landed at Bantry Bay, then called Inbher Sceine. It is stated that the cause of his leaving Greece, where his progenitor had settled, was, that he slew his father and mother, in order to obtain the sovereignty, and deprive his elder brother of the succession to the government of the country; but, be that as it may, his career was cut short, as he and the whole of his posterity some time after their settlement, were carried off by pestilence in the course of a single week, at Ben-Heder, now the Hill of Howth, near Dublin.

About thirty years after the death of Partholan, Nemedius, another descendant of Japhet, and, as it is said, of the line of the patriarch Jacob, arrived in Ireland, and attacked a colony of Africans, or sea-rovers, also designated Fomorians, whose fortress or stronghold they completely destroyed. But the Fomorians, as we are told, having soon after mustered fresh forces, renewed their hostilities, and the result was that the Nemedians were so harassed and dispersed, that the greater number of them retired from the country, under the direction of Simon Breac, the grandson of Nemedius, and proceeded

to Greece. The followers of the enterprising Breac, who were called Firbolgs, being treated as slaves in Greece, resolved to rid themselves of the intolerable yoke, and accordingly we find that, about 217 years from the time Nemedius first arrived, and 216 after his death, they, to the number of 5,000, returned to Ireland. The leaders of this colony, who were the five sons of Dela, divided the island into nearly five equal parts or provinces, which they continued to occupy for the space of forty years. The commander of the expedition Slainge, who was one of the five brothers, being appointed king, established a regular system of government, and therefore, as a matter of course, has been considered the first monarch or king of Ireland. He and his followers having landed on the coast of Wexford, near the mouth of the river, which there empties itself into the sea, gave to this river the name of Inbher Slainge.

The word Inbher, as we are told, signifies a river, and this, joined to his own name, formed the appellation from which is derived its present title of Slaney. The repose of the Firbolgs was soon destined to be broken, and their dreams of permanent occupancy interrupted by the invasion of the Tuatha-de-Danans, who were the posterity of Jobhath, another grandson of Nemedius, who had settled in the north of Europe. These people who, according to Dr. Keating, and some other writers, were famed for their supposed knowledge of necromancy, proceeded from Greece to Denmark and Norway, where, as we are told, they became possessed of marvellous treasures; among which was the stone of destiny, upon which, in after years, the kings of Ireland were wont to be crowned.

At the request of Fergus the Great, who subdued the kingdom of Scotland, this stone was sent by his brother Mortogh, then King of Ireland, to that country, in order that he might be crowned upon it. It was afterwards preserved with great care and veneration in the Abbey of Scone, till Edward III. forcibly carried it away, and placed it under the coronation chair in Westminster Abbey, where, notwithstanding its historic fame, and its regal associations, it attracts but little notice, its marvellous qualities having evaporated with the airy imaginings from which they derived their miraculous potency.

To follow Dr. Keating in his highly-coloured account of the Scythians, and their king, Feniusa Farsa, the great progenitor of the Gadelians, from whom descended the Milesians, would be a task as laborious as it would be unprofitable, as no book of this kind could afford so large a quantity of space as would be sufficient to do justice to the author, or satisfy the reasonable expectations of the reader. I shall, therefore, merely say that a perusal of the work itself would amply repay the curious reader; for, although there is much that may be considered dry and uninteresting to be found in its pages, it abounds in matter which is calculated to minister to the cravings of the most excitable fancy. The history of Ireland, written in the French language, and dedicated by its author, the Abbé Mac-Geoghegan, to the

Irish Brigade, employed, at the time of its publication, with distinction in France, is a very valuable work. Commencing with the first peopling of the island after the Flood, it recapitulates the leading particulars relative to the tribes which settled in the country prior to the arrival of the sons of Milesius, the whole of which is set forth in a more minute and circumstantial form by Keating. The author was descended from an ancient and noble Irish family, and his history breathes forth in every line the purest patriotism, chastened by a refined education, and an enlarged and accurate knowledge of the world. The work is continued down to the reign of William III., generally known as the period of the Revolution, when James II. was expelled from the throne. The translator, Patrick Kelly, Esq., has prepared, with much care and ability, a continuation of this excellent history, from the year 1692, to the year 1856, thereby filling up an interval of 164 years. This admirable work, which should be read by every Irishman, accords, in a general point of view, with the modern and exceedingly valuable history of Ireland, compiled by the celebrated poet, Moore, whose acquaintance with the character and manners of the Irish people, coupled with his undoubted patriotism, and his ardent attachment to his native land, qualified him, in an especial manner, for the performance of his interesting and responsible task. Moore's popularity in England, and his impartiality and freedom from hostility against the people of that country, must cause his work to be read and highly appreciated by those who are at all desirous to be made acquainted with a true and faithful history of Ireland. His history concludes with the death of Owen Roe O'Neill, the last of the Irish chieftains, soon after the defeat of the parliamentary forces under General Monroe, at Benburb, near Armagh, in the latter end of the reign of Charles I. Had his health and faculties been spared, he might, perhaps, have been induced to continue his highly interesting and instructive history down to our own times.

As a proof of the great antiquity of Ireland, allusion has been frequently made by many of our historians, including Moore, to the poem of the "Argonautics," written, it is supposed, more than 500 years before the birth of Christ, by "Orpheus of Crotona," in which Ireland alone, under the Celtic name of Iernis, is mentioned, without any reference whatever to Britain. Archbishop Usher, in referring to the mention of Iernis in this poem, adds, that "the Romans themselves could not produce such a tribute to their antiquity." To this may be added the testimony of the great philosopher and historian Plutarch, who, speaking of Ireland in his "Britannia," designates it "the ancient Ogygia," which signifies very ancient: "for they"—meaning the Irish—"begin their histories from the most profound memory of antiquity; so that the antiquity of other nations in respect of them is mere novelty." When we add to this testimony the statement of Tacitus, that, at the period when he wrote, "the waters and harbours of Ireland were better known than those of Britain," such a light is

thrown upon the history of this country as, when coupled with the remarks of other writers on the same subject, renders her claim to an early civilisation not only credible, but even to a great extent incontrovertible. Of all the native annals that have been transmitted to us, those of Tigernach, the celebrated abbot of Clonmacnois, are considered to be the most worthy of confidence; as, instead of carrying us back to ages of fabled antiquity, he commences his with the reign of a comparatively late monarch, Kimboath; and pronounces the records of the Scots or Irish, previously to that period, more or less uncertain. In the Annals of the Four Masters, the death of this celebrated annalist is thus recorded:—"Tigernach O'Braoin, Comorban, or successor of Kieran of Clonmacnois and St. Coman, abbot of Clonmacnois and Roscommon, a learned lecturer and historian, died in the year 1088." Marianus Scotus, a contemporary, and, as some say, a brother of Tigernach's monastery, was also a writer whose works were held in great estimation. By some commentators this eminent scholar, who died in the year 1086, was supposed to have been a native of Scotland; but he was in reality an Irish Scot.

While speaking of the Irish annals, and the degree of value and confidence due to them, it may not be deemed out of place to refer to some of the highest modern authorities on the subject:—"The chronicles of Ireland," says Sir James Mackintosh, "written in the Irish language, from the second century to the landing of Henry Plantagenet, have been recently published, with the fullest evidence of their genuineness and exactness." This distinguished writer goes on to say —"The Irish nation, though they have been robbed of many of their legends by this authentic publication, are yet by it enabled to boast that they possess genuine history several centuries more ancient than any other European nation possesses, in its present spoken language. They have exchanged their legendary antiquity for historical fame." —(Mackintosh's "History of England," vol. i., chap. ii.)

A writer in the *Edinburgh Review*, speaking of the Irish annals and their publisher, Dr. O'Connor, thus expresses himself:—"We have here the works of the ancient Irish historians, divested of modern fable and romance; and, whatever opinion may be formed of the early traditions they record, satisfactory evidence is afforded that many of the facts they relate, long anterior to our earliest chronicles, rest on contemporary history. Some of Dr. O'Connor's readers may hesitate to admit the degree of culture and prosperity he claims for his countrymen; but no one, we think, can deny, after perusing his proofs, that the Irish were a lettered people, while the Saxons were still immersed in darkness and ignorance."

The following tribute to Dr. O'Connor's work comes from a source which highly enhances the value of the praise bestowed upon it:—"A work," says Sir F. Palgrave, "which, whether we consider the learning of the editor, the value of the materials, or the princely munificence of the Duke of Buckingham, at whose expense it was produced, is

without a parallel in modern literature." The greater part of the Irish annals, according to MacGeoghegan, were, when he wrote, still entire. Usher speaks of the annals of Tigernach and those of Ulster; Ware quotes the Psalter named Na-Rann; and praises the Psalter of Cashel, and its author Cormac Mac Cullinan, Bishop of Cashel, and King of Munster. In speaking of the Milesians, this writer says, that the island Hibernia was divided between the two sons of Milesius, and in two parts. Heber obtained the south portion, while to Heremon fell the northern part, together with the monarchy of the whole island. Of the descendants of Heremon, fifty-eight kings ruled over Ireland anterior to the arrival of St. Patrick, and fifty of the same lineage subsequent to the coming of that saint. The truth of the Scoto-Milesians having passed from Spain to Ireland, is supported by the testimony of the following writers: Nennius of the ninth century, Walsingham, Henry of Huntington, and Buchanan. Cámden says that the opinion of these authors accords with that of the Irish, who gladly call themselves the descendants of the Spaniards. Of the native authors who became distinguished by their writings, may be mentioned Lynch, Dr. O'Connor, Stephen White, Wadding, O'Flaherty, Colgan, Lanigan, and Philip O'Sullivan.

It was in the reign of one of the most distinguished of the descendants of Heremon, that Christianity, under the influence of the illustrious and blessed St. Patrick, diffused itself over the face of the land, so long darkened by the pagan rites of the Druid system. The arrival of the future apostle of Ireland, in the sixteenth year of his age, occurred at the memorable period when Nial of the Nine Hostages, after laying waste the coasts of Britain, extended his ravages to the maritime districts of Gaul. It was in one of his descents on the shores of that country, that the soldiers of Nial carried off from the coast of Armoric Gaul, the youth Patrick, who has now for more than 1,400 years, been commemorated as an apostle of Ireland. Mac-Geoghegan says that the sisters of St. Patrick, Lupidia and Dererca, amongst others, were made captives on this occasion. On his capture, the young Patrick was purchased as a slave, by a man named Milcho, who lived in that part of Dalaradia which is now comprised within the county of Antrim. After several years of servitude, a voice in his dreams informed him that "he was destined to go to his own country," and that a ship was in readiness to convey him to that long sighed-for land. Accordingly, in the seventh year of his bondage, he betook himself to flight, and making his way to the south-western coast was there received on board a merchant vessel, which, after a voyage of three days, landed him on the coast of Gaul. Nial the Great, who was treacherously slain by one of his own followers, Eocha, son of Enna Kinselah, near the site of the present Boulogne, was succeeded by his brother, or, as some say, his nephew Dathy, the last of the pagan monarchs of Ireland, a prince who, whether as a soldier or daring

adventurer, was not unworthy to follow in the footsteps of his heroic predecessor. Like Nial he invaded the coasts of Gaul, and allured by the prospect of plunder, which the state of the province, then falling into confusion, held forth, he pushed his way to the foot of the Alps, where he was killed by a flash of lightning, leaving the throne of Ireland to be filled thenceforward by a line of Christian kings.

However tempting the theme, I must, as in other instances, forego the pleasure of dwelling on this portion of Irish history, and of accompanying the illustrious St. Patrick in his progress to foreign countries, where, in order to acquire the light of knowledge, so essential to qualify him for the great object he had at heart, he felt it incumbent on him to become a sojourner. Neither shall I dilate upon the success that characterised his sacred mission in the conversion of Ireland, as I am quite aware that my readers in general are sufficiently acquainted with the glorious and crowning results which followed his miraculous career. Besides, as I shall have occasion frequently to mention his name in connection with the churches founded by him in various parts of the country, it may be as well to avoid unnecessary repetition.

To the reflective reader who has rendered himself familiar with the system under which Ireland was governed in ancient times, the sweeping change which was wrought by the preaching and miracles of the great apostle, and the readiness with which materials, otherwise so discordant and conflicting, could have been moulded into such a happy and harmonious unanimity, cannot fail to be a matter of very great surprise. "Perhaps in no country in the world," says one of our historians, "was there ever established a system more calculated to engender strife and confusion, than that which at this time prevailed in Ireland." This system was a sort of pentarchy, in which, in addition to the four great provinces into which the country was divided, namely, Leinster, Ulster, Munster, and Connaught, a fifth province was created,—the district called Meath, which although naturally belonging to Leinster, was set apart on account of its position in the centre of the kingdom, to form the seat of government, and the residence of the monarch. It has been justly observed that the want of an adequate controlling power in the monarchy, as regarded its relations with foreign governments, had been always an anomaly in the Irish system, which was productive of weakness and confusion. The rule under this system was, that each province, and even subdivision of a province, should be governed by its own king, and the whole subordinated to a supreme monarch, who had nominally, but seldom in reality, a proper control over the proceedings of all. From Homer's account of the separate dominions of the chiefs of Greece, it would seem that a similar system existed in that country. We know, too, that during the Heptarchy, the island of Great Britain contained as many as fifteen kingdoms, including Saxon, British, and Scotch; and in one of the smallest of them, the kingdom

of Kent, there were at one time three chiefs on whom the annalists bestowed the title of king. As a proof of the vast number of petty princes, contemporaneously in Ireland, we have only to refer to an account of a great battle, which took place near the residence of Fin-Mac-Cumhal, where no less than 200 kings are said to have been slain on that remarkable occasion. We are also told that within so short a period as from the beginning of the reign of Tuathal, who was the second of that name, in the year 533, to the time of the great plague in 664, no less than fifteen monarchs filled the throne of Ireland, making the average of their reigns, during that period, little more than eight years. For such a state of things, however, a parallel may be found in the annals of the sister-country, during the time of the Saxon Heptarchy. To judge from the following account, their affairs were little better in this respect than those of the Irish.

"During the eighth century," says a commentator, "Northumbria had exhibited successive instances of treachery and murder unequalled, perhaps, in any country." Within the space of a hundred years, fourteen kings had assumed the sceptre, and yet out of all these, one only died in the peaceable possession of the throne; seven of them had been slain, and six driven from the throne by their rebellious subjects. It has been observed by some acute writers that, in small, uncivilised kingdoms, the average length of time occupied by each reign has been computed at eleven years. And such was the state of Ireland when its illustrious apostle, the special messenger of Almighty goodness and mercy, came to proclaim the all-saving blessings of that Supreme Being, in the religion of his divine Son. While we are filled with astonishment at the wondrous miracles manifested in the great event, we are struck with equal surprise at perceiving the vast number of sages and holy virgins that, in such a comparatively short space of time, sprang up in all parts of Ireland; who, by their piety, their learning, and their acknowledged holiness, spread the fame of their country over all Europe, and who ultimately obtained for it the proud title of the "Island of Saints."

One of the most remarkable epochs in the history of Ireland is the irruption of the Danes, which, during their long and afflicting tyranny, presents but one dark and monotonous picture of plunder, massacre, and desolation. The frequent plunder of the same churches and sacred shrines, and the destruction of the same monasteries by these lawless ravagers, while they prove the pertinacious and persecuting violence of their oppression, afford, also, unmistakable evidence of the great piety and religious zeal of the natives, who were as constantly engaged in repairing and rebuilding these holy places.

As a proof of the turpitude and cruelty of these merciless strangers, we have only to refer to their wholesale butchery of the monks of Bangor, near Carrickfergus, where, on one occasion, the venerable abbot, and 900 of his brethren fell victims to their rapacious violence.

This was their second attack on that renowned place, which at one period could boast of 3,000 monks keeping its rule, and whence the great St. Columbanus and many other learned and illustrious men were sent forth as teachers and missionaries. On this occasion, these ferocious ravagers broke open the rich shrine of St. Congal, and wantonly scattered upon the ground the enclosed relics. In fact, so completely had these fierce invaders subdued the country at this time, that we find their chief, Turgesius, assuming the state and style of royalty.

The somewhat doubtful but romantic account of the death of this dreaded and tyrannical chief, is thus given by Giraldus Cambrensis:—"The beautiful daughter of O'Melachlin, King of Meath, having awakened a passion in the breast of Turgesius, that tyrant, accustomed to the ready accomplishment of all his desires, made known to her father the unlawful passion which he entertained. Concealing his horror at such a proposal, the king, in appearance, consented to surrender to him his daughter, and a small island in Loch Var, in the county of Meath, was the place appointed for the desired interview. Thither it was fixed that the princess, attended by fifteen maidens, should come at an appointed hour; and there Turgesius, with as many young Danish noblemen, was waiting, impatiently, to receive her. The supposed handmaids of the princess, however, were, in reality fifteen brave, beardless youths, selected for the purpose, who, hiding each a skean or dagger under his robe, took advantage of the first opportunity that offered, and, falling upon the tyrant and his followers, despatched the whole party." It is added that this gallant achievement having spread rapidly through the country, the Danes were attacked in every quarter, and either got rid of by the knife or the sword, or compelled to return to Norway, and the different isles from which they had come. This highly-wrought and romantic account of the death of Turgesius, which has been made the subject of an interesting drama, called *Hibernia Freed*, is not to be found in any of the Irish annals, it being simply stated in them, that the tyrant fell into the hands of O'Melachlin, and was by him drowned in Loch Var. But whatever may have been the means of his death, of its truth there can be no doubt. The statement of Giraldus, that Ireland was thenceforth entirely free from the yoke of the Danes, is far from being the fact, as her subsequent history but too palpably proves. It is certain, however, that their power was greatly restricted, and that, although still harassing and even very formidable, they never after recovered their former potency and sway.

On the discomfiture and final overthrow of these troublesome invaders, at Clontarf, it will be quite unnecessary to dwell, as the reading portion of the public are sufficiently familiar with the particulars of the crowning victory, so dearly purchased by the death of the gallant and lamented monarch.

Of the imperfect and anomalous system of government existing in

Ireland at this period, a tolerably accurate notion may be formed by a consideration of the incidents connected with the reign of the great monarch Brian Boru, whose glorious victory and lamented death have been thus briefly alluded to. We have an appalling instance of the insecurity of life in the murder of his brother Mahon, by a rival prince or chief; while of the instability of power we have an equally convincing proof, in the circumstance of the monarch Malachy—"he who wore the collar of gold"—being set aside, and his supreme authority, together with the sceptre, transferred to Brian himself. That there was no just cause for removing Malachy from the supreme throne may be fairly inferred from the fact that, on the death of Brian, he was thought worthy to fill it again. The claim made on the crown of North Munster, by Cian, the Eugenian leader, whose personal gifts were the admiration of his time, but whose inordinate ambition, we have reason to believe, exceeded his natural endowments, is also calculated to excite the utmost astonishment. This ill-timed claim, which was made on Easter Saturday, the day after the battle, before the body of the great monarch was placed in its coffin, was decidedly rejected by Donough, the son of Brian, and the angry contentions between such powerful rivals, would, in all probability, have resulted in lamentable consequences, but for the good sense and kindly feeling of Domnal, another Eugenian prince—who governed jointly with Cian the troops of South Munster—which induced him to expostulate with his brother chieftain, whereby he prevailed on him to withdraw himself and his forces from the camp. The want of fealty to the supreme authority, so strikingly manifested in the audacious conduct of Mac-Gilla-Patrick, Prince of Ossory, who intercepted the march of the remnant of the brave Dalcassians, with their sick and wounded, unless their leader, Donough, would acknowledge his authority by giving hostages, plainly shows how loose were the notions of allegiance entertained by those who were invested with subordinate power and authority.

When we add to these instances the account of the turpitude of Donough himself, who is accused of being accessory to the murder of his brother Teige, in order that he might remove an obstacle to his own assumption of the supreme throne on the death of the great Malachy, we discover such a state of things as is utterly at variance with every principle of justice and right. The want of unanimity is rendered equally demonstrable, by the fact of the whole of the province of Leinster having been leagued with the odious Danes, in their great final struggle to obtain the ascendancy in Ireland.

The last and memorable invasion of Ireland, by the English, under Henry II., will also be touched on in the body of this work, as I shall have to speak of the several places which have been rendered remarkable as the points of arrival and debarkation of the early adventurers, who were the instruments of that ambitious and unscrupulous monarch.

CHAPTER I.

DUBLIN AND ITS ENVIRONS.

DUBLIN, the metropolis of Ireland, and the second city in the British empire, cannot fail to attract the attention and excite the interest of the English tourist, while the impressions created in the mind of an Irishman, when he visits it for the first time, are those of unmingled admiration and delight.

This fine city extends somewhat more than three miles in length in a direct line from east to west, and is nearly of equal extent from north to south. It is intersected by the river Liffey, which flows downwards from west to east, and discharges itself, at the distance of about three miles from the Custom House, into the beautiful bay, whose ample proportions and picturesque characteristics entitle it to a comparison with that pride of the sea, the otherwise unrivalled Naples.

Among the most striking and important works of utility which attract the notice of the visitor, on approaching the city from the sea, is the noble pier, which extends from Ringsend to what may be called the entrance to the harbour, and terminates at its eastern extremity with a handsome lighthouse. This great work runs along the ridge of what was formerly called the South Bull, and, as originally constructed in 1748, stretched no farther than the Pigeon House, which is about a mile and a quarter from Ringsend; but in the year 1761, a wall was commenced and carried inwards from the lighthouse, which was begun at the same time, and finished in 1768. This lighthouse, a striking and interesting object as seen from the bay, is composed of hewn granite, and is three stories in height, each story being divided and separately supported by strong arches. A surrounding gallery, which is on a level with the upper story, is approached by an exterior winding staircase with an iron balustrade, the whole being surmounted by an octagonal lantern.

A sandbank, called the North Bull, extends for a considerable distance up the harbour, over which, at particular times of tide, the roll of the waters produces a loud and sonorous roar: when the tide recedes, a large portion of this bank is uncovered. On the opposite or Clontarf side also a pier has been constructed, which is likewise distinguished by a lighthouse, with a patent slip of comparatively recent erection at its eastern extremity. From this point a line of wall has

been extended for a considerable distance nearly parallel with that on the south side, and was intended to terminate at the point indicated by a series of marks or poles nearly opposite the lighthouse. This wall, which, as it approached its termination, was to take a curving sweep in a south-easterly direction, would render the same protection from the north and north-east winds which that on the opposite side affords from those which blow from the south and south-east. But whatever were the advantages contemplated by its erection, it has, at least for the present, been abandoned, although a considerable portion of the work had been carried out.

The tourist, as he advances up the river, will notice on the north side the magnificent Custom House, which here displays itself, and is a truly noble pile, not to be surpassed by any building of the kind in this great commercial empire. As viewed from the front of the Corn Exchange, on the opposite side of the river, it has a very striking appearance; and, whether taken in the aggregate, or minutely examined in its several details, presents an equally rich and imposing aspect. Its form is that of a quadrangle of oblong character, 375 feet in length, and 205 in breadth, and exhibits four highly decorated fronts, one to each of the four cardinal points: the north and south, being the principal, are enriched with splendid columns and ornaments of the Doric order. Before the centre of the southern façade a grand portico is formed by four Doric columns supporting an entablature, the frieze of which is ornamented with festoons and other devices. In the tympanum of the pediment by which the entablature is surmounted, appears a finely-wrought representation of the union and friendship existing between the sister countries, as exemplified by a figure of Britannia and Hibernia embracing each other. Figures emblematic of commerce and prosperity appear on the right and left of the sisterly demonstration, while from the centre of the building, in the rear of the portico, rises a handsome cupola, which is in the style of those that attract the notice of the visitor at Greenwich Hospital, near London. The dome, which is 26 feet in height, is surmounted by a statue of Hope, based on a circular pedestal, and resting on an anchor. The statue is 12 feet high, and 113 from the ground. The north front, which appears to fine advantage from Beresford Place, is enriched with statues emblematic of plenty and industry. The interior contains some noble apartments, including the Long-room, the Trial-room, and the Board-room, to which access is obtained by an elegant staircase, much admired for the lightness and beauty of its construction. It would require far more space than I can command to give an adequate description of this fine building; but from the great intercourse which of latter years has been established between the metropolis and the country parts in general, a minute detail of its several compartments is the less called for. Besides, in the recently published "History of Dublin," by Mr. Gilbert, this, and the other noble buildings in the city, are fully described.

Arriving at Carlisle Bridge, the visitor will be enabled to form a tolerably accurate notion of the extent and beauty of this fine city. Here the Liffey for a considerable distance is open to the view, and is fronted on both sides by ranges of granite masonry, the splendid line of quays forming commodious streets, with ample flagged footways along their outer sides, as well as in front of the houses. The bisecting stream, within a distance of two miles, is crossed by nine bridges, most of which are of elegant design, and highly ornamental character. Carlisle Bridge, which is nearest to the sea, and to the foot of which vessels can approach, connects Sackville Street on the north with Westmoreland Street and D'Olier Street on the south, and is a splendid structure of three arches, 210 feet in length and 48 in breadth, with ample footways and rich balustrades. It would be difficult to find in any city a more magnificent view than can be obtained from the centre of this bridge on a fine summer's morning, ere the city fires begin to emit their smoke. Looking to the east, the view is enriched, and rendered exceedingly interesting by the numerous ships that line the quays on each side of the river, and the magnificent Custom House, to which allusion has been already made.

The western view is still more extensive, and is rendered particularly attractive, by the splendid buildings, with their domes, cupolas, and graceful spires, which constitute such a scene as, for richness and beauty, can rarely be witnessed in any city.

Sackville Street on the north, with its numerous and strikingly beautiful objects, commands a large share of the visitor's admiration; while Westmoreland Street and D'Olier Street, with the College, and the noble Corinthian portico of the Bank of Ireland, and the other grand buildings on that side, give a finish and completeness to such a picture as those who behold it under such favourable circumstances, may seek for elsewhere almost in vain. Among the several fine streets which constitute the great northern avenue of the city, Sackville Street, one of the noblest, perhaps, in Europe, appears eminently conspicuous, and by its great width, the richness and beauty of the shops and public buildings by which it is embellished, and the lofty monument erected to the memory of the renowned Admiral Lord Viscount Nelson, which stands in the centre, it excites the stranger's marked attention. Besides the stately column raised to the honour of England's greatest naval hero, who may be justly styled the "bravest of the brave," another testimonial is about to be erected in this part of the city; the corporation in full assembly, having resolved to place the contemplated statue to the illustrious patriot Daniel O'Connell, in the centre of that part of this noble street which immediately faces Carlisle Bridge. Thus will the name and fame of the renowned warrior, and those of the no less renowned statesman, the champion and eloquent advocate of moral force, be alike perpetuated, and will doubtless live in the remembrance of a grateful posterity. On the south side of the river, the avenue leading from

Kingstown, is almost equally spacious and imposing; while the junction at which these great branches may be said to meet, College Green, is an expansive area, surrounded by splendid buildings, of which the Bank of Ireland and Trinity College, are truly magnificent structures.

Having in a former work noticed the most prominent and remarkable features in this fine city, including the College, the Bank of Ireland, the General Post Office, the Four Courts, the Queen's Inn or Temple, the principal Protestant and Catholic churches, and the magnificent squares and bridges, I shall not at present, enter on a renewed description of them. There are, however, several objects of recent construction, that are entitled to the visitor's attention, of which it may not be deemed superfluous to say a few words. Among some of the most important of these, are the improvements lately carried out at the College, which are unquestionably unique and beautiful in their way. The first of them is an elegant Campanile, which occupies the centre of the open space whereon formerly stood the range of brick buildings that divided the "Parliament" Square from that called the "Library" Square. This highly ornamented tower was finished in the summer of 1855, and is a fine specimen of architectural taste, consisting of three stories, based on a rich platform. The first story consists of four graceful open arches, above the crown of each of which appears an ornamental human head; while upon each extremity of its four sides rises a fine pilaster, which as well as the other parts of this story, is of the richest rustic granite work. From the four angles of this story rise graduating pedestals, upon which stand allegorical statues, emblematic of the four principal elements of education inculcated in the University, namely, Divinity, the Arts and Sciences, Medicine, and Law. From the weathering canopy of this story, rises the second, which is of octagonal form, with eight open arches, the angles of which are enriched with an equal number of Corinthian columns. From the splendid cupola that graces the summit of the second story, which constitutes the ringing chamber, ascends the third and final story, which is also of octangular form, with open arches at the sides, springing from light and elegant Corinthian pilasters. This story is likewise crowned with a graceful cupola, from the summit of which rises a light, ornamental cross. This exquisite specimen of the builders' art, which is ninety-three feet in height, was designed by Mr. Lanyan, of Belfast, architect; the builder, Mr. Kingsmill, and the sculptor, Mr. Kirk, being both citizens of Dublin. While this stately tower renders important service in furnishing and adorning the centre of the spacious oblong, it constitutes an appropriate resting-place for the great bell of the College, which within its lofty chamber has found a home worthy of its character and its fame. Another grand building intended for a lecture-hall and museum, has been erected on that portion of the grounds east of the library, and shows its highly enriched front to the north, on Park Square. This elegant structure is of oblong

form, being about 160 feet in length, 92 in breadth, and two stories in height. It is constructed of Portland stone, and is remarkable for the elaborate ornament and artistic skill with which its details are carried out. Among the fanciful decorations which characterise the principal front, the visitor will be struck with several ingenious representations, some of which display themselves in peculiar and fantastic devices. In these instances the artistic ingenuity of the workman has enabled him to revel, as it were, in the regions of fancy, and occasionally to indulge in arch and playful wantonness. These sportive traits are exemplified on portions of the arches of the doors and windows, where appear various birds and figures of the lesser animals—such as a number of rats, running in affright from their fierce and potent enemy Grimalkin; and a heroic bird standing on the edge of its nest, and defending its young from a ravenous, swooping hawk. The variety displayed in the minute carving of these several objects is truly astonishing, no two things in the whole being alike, each having its own design and separate illustration, the entire being the operation of the artist's hand. The interior of this beautiful building is perfectly in keeping with the elegant exterior, and would amply repay the trouble of a visit from some of the most experienced professional judges of ornamental architecture. Even an ordinary observer, who looks upon its series of rich marble columns, and the admirable specimens of taste and skill, which have emanated from the ingenuity of those engaged in carrying into effect the masterly details, must be forcibly struck with their almost unrivalled excellence.

The beautiful columns that grace and adorn the interior of this fine edifice, are all of Irish marble from the quarries of Armagh, Cork, Galway, and Kilkenny. The visitor must be greatly struck with the splendid specimens of Galway marble which are to be seen here. One of the columns, a richly variegated green, from Connemara, may challenge a comparison with some of the finest marbles imported into these islands. Circular medallions, composed of finely polished specimens of the native marbles are, for ornamental purposes, embedded at certain distances, in the sides of the exterior walls of the building. The estimated cost of this elegant building, which is in the Byzantine style of architecture, was somewhat about £20,000. I saw it in a recent visit, in the month of June, 1862, when it appeared to be completely finished.

In the neighbourhood of the College there is another striking and interesting object to be seen. This is the statue erected a few years since to the memory of Ireland's justly celebrated poet, Moore. The well-selected and appropriate site for the monument of this highly gifted man is at the top of College Street, immediately in front of the grand portico of the Bank, which is formed by splendid columns of the Corinthian order, and which formerly constituted the entrance to the House of Lords. This site is deemed exceedingly well chosen for

Moore's monument, as, besides being a citizen of Dublin, he was a graduate of the University, in the vicinity of which it is situated. Some persons find fault with the statue, and say that it is far from being a correct likeness of the idolised poet. To those who were personally acquainted with the man, and were familiar with his erect bearing, and his debonair manner, it must be confessed that such criticism may, to a certain extent, appear well founded. But it is quite manifest that the ideal upon which its designer founded his conception of the bard, was not what he appeared in every-day life, but rather what he might be supposed to have been in his moments of profound thought—when his mental faculties were employed in moulding into a tangible embodiment the workings of his fine imagination. Looking upon this representation of meditative genius in this point of view, the sensible and reflective observer will have little difficulty in recognising the success of the artist, and also the well-defined features of Moore.

In the centre of the ample space in the rear of the Moore monument, has lately been erected a testimonial to the esteemed Surgeon-General, Sir Philip Crampton. In this striking and highly wrought monument to great public and private worth, are combined the useful and the ornamental, as the under portion or pedestal comprises a drinking-fountain, while the elevated summit terminates in a richly foliated and very remarkable finial.

Proceeding in a southerly direction from College Green, the tourist will speedily arrive at St. Stephen's Green, the most capacious of any of the squares in this city, being nearly a mile in circumference, and the largest ornamental square in the British empire.

An ample, well laid out, and nicely gravelled carriage-way surrounds the central area, with spacious flagged-ways before the fronts of the houses, and a commodious and equally neat walk on the outside of the wall that supports the light iron railing which forms the external boundary of the Green. The internal space, comprising nearly twenty acres, is tastefully planted and laid out in walks, and ornamented in the centre with an equestrian statue of George II.

It is not unlikely that another royal statue will ere long grace and adorn this magnificent square, as the valuable proposition submitted to the consideration of the public—and of those who have the power of carrying it into effect—by the Right Honourable Judge Fitzgerald, will in all probability be favourably entertained. The recommendation of this high and learned functionary is, that the testimonial in honour of his late Royal Highness, the illustrious Prince Consort, should be erected within the Green, which thenceforward should be open to the public, in general, as a People's Park. Should this desirable project be realised, the great body of the people will have constantly before them, the memorial of a truly good and wise prince, whose bright example will be an incentive to them to cultivate and cherish the domestic virtues, of which he was the true and faithful impersonation.

Among the public buildings that ornament the four sides of the Green, one of those most recently founded is the College of Surgeons, a fine structure, built of pure granite, and presenting a noble façade, the pediment of which is decorated with appropriate statues. It was erected at an expense of £35,000.

In one of the largest mansions on the south side has been some years since established the new Catholic University, which, to the surprise of many persons, has sprung into a healthy existence within a comparatively short space of time from the period when the project was first promulgated. Should the advance to maturity of the new college, the first stone of which was laid in the summer of the present year, be in keeping with the infant strides of its precursor in St. Stephen's Green, which I sincerely hope may prove to be the case, incalculable advantages will be the natural result. In addition to the principal building, a couple of adjoining houses have been purchased, in order to afford an open entrance to the chapel of the establishment, an office for the secretary, apartments for the domestics, and increased accommodation for the students. The chapel, a fine oblong structure, has been fitted up in a style worthy of the institution of which it is so important an adjunct. The vaulted ceiling immediately above the altar has recently undergone considerable pictorial embellishment, and presents a very interesting appearance. The walls are faced with variegated slabs of Irish marble, above which appear a number of paintings, in the style of the celebrated cartoons, which a few years ago arrived from Italy. They are very numerous, and represent some of the most interesting events in the life of our Redeemer, his Blessed Mother, and his Apostles. The organ gallery, with its marble front, and supporting columns of the same rich material, which stands on the gospel side of the altar, presents a very fine appearance; while the windows of the church, which are of the rounded Romanesque style, are furnished with a series of small circular "bulls'-eyes" that serve to produce a very fine effect. On the same side of the square there is a dissenting place of worship, with a handsome Grecian Ionic portico.

The St. Vincent's Hospital, situated on the eastern side, is a fine brick mansion, four stories in height, with a double entrance between four handsome columns of the Doric order. This benevolent institution was opened by the Sisters of Charity in the year 1835. Here are nearly 100 beds always ready for the reception of the sick, without religious distinction. It is really delightful to hear the terms in which this asylum for the wretched is spoken of by all classes in the city. The Museum of Irish Industry is situated on the same side of the Green, and is an extensive building, with a centre of fine brick, and wings, apparently of more recent erection, nicely but plainly wrought in stucco. A visit to this emporium of native industrial enterprise and scientific research and skill, will amply repay those who turn their attention to the development of the natural resources of the country.

whether as regards objects connected with its minerals, vegetables, or fisheries. This most useful institution, which reflects so much credit on the government by which it was founded, is under the direction of Sir Robert Kane, author of the "Industrial Resources of Ireland." The chemical department is under the special care of Dr. Sullivan, so well known for his research in matters connected with agricultural and manufacturing chemistry.

Proceeding in a westerly direction, by Dame Street to Cork Hill, where is situated the principal entrance to Dublin Castle, the stranger should not pass without visiting the City Hall, formerly the Royal Exchange,—a fine quadrangular building, with three fronts of Portland stone, in the Corinthian order. The interior of this noble structure is in perfect harmony with its rich exterior, the great hall especially commanding unqualified admiration. This magnificent apartment is of circular form, with twelve fluted columns of the composite order, 32 feet in height, surmounted by an elegant entablature, above which is a lantern 10 feet high, ornamented with festoons of laurel, and divided into twelve circular windows. The whole is crowned with a magnificent dome, lighted from the centre by a large circular window. On the right of the entrance is the fine statue, by Hogan, of Daniel O'Connell, who is represented holding in his hand a partially closed book, on the back of which appears the word "Repeal," that talisman by which he evoked an agitation second only to that which exclusive and unjust laws were so instrumental in engendering. On the left is a very beautiful statue, also by Hogan, of the late Right Honourable Thomas Drummond, Under Secretary of State for Ireland, he who enunciated the just principle that the owners of property have their duties as well as their rights. Opposite to this statue is that of the great champion of his country's rights, the renowned Henry Grattan, by Chantrey. On the other extremity of the hall, facing the statue of the "Liberator," is a life-size statue of the celebrated patriot, Dr. Lucas; and on the right of the grand staircase, immediately opposite the entrance, is a beautiful bronze statue of George III. At a short distance west of this splendid building, is the principal entrance to Dublin Castle, which, being the official residence of the representative of the Sovereign, may be considered the most important feature in the city. It is composed of two quadrangles, designated the upper and lower castle yards. That into which the principal entrance from Castle Street leads is 280 feet by 130. The buildings in this court are uniform and regular, and contain the state and private apartments of the Lord-Lieutenant, with those of his secretaries and suite. The approach to the vice-regal apartments is on the south side, beneath a colonnade which leads into the grand hall, and thence by a noble staircase to the state apartments, including the presence-chamber and ball-room. In the former stands the throne, of richly-gilt carved work, under a canopy of crimson velvet, ornamented with gold lace. The latter, since the institution of the knightly

order of St. Patrick, in 1783, is called St. Patrick's Hall, and is a noble apartment, 82 feet in length, 41 in breadth, and 31 in height.

In the centre of the panelled ceiling, which is divided into three compartments, is a full-length portrait of George III., supported by Liberty and Justice, while in one of the adjoining divisions appears St. Patrick converting the Irish to Christianity, and in the other Henry II. receiving the submissions of the Irish chieftains. The walls of the apartment called the picture gallery are decorated with splendid full-length portraits of the various Viceroys, down to his Excellency the Earl of Carlisle, the present highly-popular Lord-Lieutenant.

The Chapel Royal, a building of the most perfect symmetry and beauty, is situated in the lower court, attached to the Birmingham or Record Tower, the only portion of the original fortress now remaining, the massive circular walls of which are surmounted by projecting battlements. This elegant chapel, which was erected on the site of a former chapel, was opened for divine service on Christmas Day, 1814. It is constructed of dark Irish stone, and consists of a choir, without either nave or transept, 73 feet in length and 35 in breadth. Its style is that of the Gothic, of an enriched and highly ornamental character; and it is supported on each side by seven buttresses, terminating in decorated pinnacles, which spring from grotesque heads. A rich battlement separates the pinnacles; and between the buttresses on each side are six fine windows. A door, of the same style as the windows, appears at the east end, over which, on one side, the projecting label moulding springs from a head of St. Patrick, and on the other from one of the heroic Brian Boru. A tablet with an inscription commemorating the period of its erection, and the name of the governor, the Duke of Bedford, surmounts the door. The grand east window is above this tablet. It is of an exceedingly rich and ornamental description, with a canopy springing from heads of Hope and Charity; the apex of which is decorated with a half-length figure of Faith, holding a chalice. The principal entrance, which is on the north side, is surmounted by a bust of St. Peter, holding a key; while over the window, above the entrance, is another of Dean Swift. The effect of the east window, as viewed from the interior, is very impressive, its beautiful stained glass representing our Blessed Saviour before Pilate, with statues of Faith, Hope, and Charity, and busts of the four Evangelists, placed beside it. Indeed, the whole of its interior is in perfect harmony with the elegant exterior, whilst the embellishment is such as to excite the admiration of the visitor. Twelve clustered columns, their rich capitals ornamented with foliage, support the magnificent groined arches that, springing from grotesque heads, form the ceiling of the roof, which is embellished with tracery, and painted so as to resemble stone. The royal arms are displayed in the centre panel of the organ-gallery, and, like those of the Duke of

Bedford, who commenced, and the Duke of Richmond, who finished the chapel, beautifully carved in oak. Here also are placed the arms of the several Viceroys, from the time of Henry II., elegantly carved in oak, with appropriate inscriptions, recording the dates of their respective arrivals and departures. On my last visit to Dublin, in June, 1862, I noticed some additional oak carving of a superior and exquisitely beautiful description here, the elaborate details and artistic chiseling of which could not in my judgment be exceeded in these countries. This beautiful building, so worthy of admiration, and which from its situation can be seen to such advantage, is the emanation of Irish genius,—for, with the exception of the stained glass, purchased on the Continent by the Earl of Whitworth, and the organ, which was built in England, the noble structure, including the design, sculpture, and decorations, is all the production of native skill and talent. The entire expense of the erection and decoration of this fine temple, including the cost of the organ, was £42,000. Taking his departure by the principal entrance, in the north front, the visitor will notice, between the two gateways—over one of which is a statue of Justice, and above the other, one of Fortitude—the Bedford Tower, a remarkable structure, embellished with Ionic columns, and surmounted by a lofty dome, from the summit of which, on marked state occasions, the royal standard is displayed.

The Castle, which was originally intended as a fortress, was commenced by Meyler Fitz-Henry, Lord-Justice of Ireland, under a patent from the crown in the year 1205, and finished, by Henri de Loundres, in 1220. This prelate succeeded John Comyn, Archbishop of Dublin, in 1213. He was likewise appointed Lord-Justice of Ireland, which office he filled till the year 1215, when he was summoned to attend the Council of Lateran. He was appointed legate of Ireland, two years after, by Pope Honorius III.; and upon the recall of his successor, who had been performing the duties of Lord-Justice of Ireland in his absence, in 1219, he again, by order of the King, resumed the administration of the government. It was during this period he finished the building of the castle, as before mentioned. From the exemplary manner in which this prelate governed the church, and administered the affairs of the state, his memory would have been entitled to the respect and gratitude of posterity, if unfortunately he had not sullied his high character by an act of unmitigated baseness deserving of the strongest reprobation. It is said that he issued orders to all the tenants who held lands under him as archbishop, to appear before him on a given day, to show the leases and titles they had obtained from his predecessors, to which orders the unsuspecting people gave a willing and prompt obedience. But to their horror and astonishment, he had no sooner got their papers into his hands, than without the least ceremony he thrust them all into the fire. The indignant people, struck with amazement at the injustice of his conduct, and being roused to the highest pitch of anger thereby, forgot in the

irritation of the moment their accustomed respect for his sacred character, and loaded him with insults; some of them, moreover, ran to procure arms, when the alarmed prelate was but too happy to escape by a back door. This conduct of the archbishop exasperated the king to such a degree, that he deprived him of his high powers in the administration of the affairs of the country, and transferred them to Maurice Fitzgerald.

Proceeding in a westerly direction from the Castle, the visitor will arrive at Christ Church Cathedral, which stands as an interesting monument of the sincerity of the conversion of the Danes to the Christian faith, it having been erected about the year 1038, by Sitric, chief of the Northmen of Dublin, and by Donat, the first Danish bishop. It was afterwards enlarged by St. Laurence O'Toole, and subsequently further improved by Earl Strongbow, Robert Fitz-Stephen, and Raymond "le Gros," who are said to have built the choir, the steeple, and two chapels.

The Cathedral consists of a nave, a north aisle, choir, and transepts, with a massive square tower rising above the intersection of the transepts, and terminating in a pointed roof. Of the original building very little now remains but the northern wall, and the side aisle of the nave, as the dense roof of the church, which was of stone, proving too heavy for its decaying supports, especially that of the wall on the south side, the latter gave way, and the roof, as a matter of course, was involved in the ruin consequent upon its fall. This wall was rebuilt, and the roof replaced by a framework of timber, in the year 1570. From the strong buttresses that appear on the outside of the northern wall, it is quite manifest that a laudable anxiety was felt to preserve an edifice which has existed for more than 800 years. The portions still remaining afford sufficient evidence that the church was originally of Gothic character, although subsequent alterations have greatly changed its ancient style. The length of the nave is over 100 feet, the breadth 25; the breadth of the aisle—which is divided from the nave by clustered columns, crowned with rich capitals, from which spring the sharply-pointed arches—being 13 feet. The south transept, 90 feet by 25, is entered by a fine Norman doorway of highly-wrought workmanship, still in excellent preservation; and the choir, enriched with a splendid east window of stained glass, is separated from the nave by an elegant screen, above which is situated the organ-gallery. The ceiling presents a very fine appearance, being adorned with quadrangular mouldings, and an elegant traceried border, which runs round the whole building. Viewed in its present state, this church presents considerable variety in its architectural details—the door already mentioned, and the magnificent arched window of the choir, affording specimens of the Norman style; while the north portal and its decorations are of the Saxon. The transepts also partake of the Saxon style. A striking mixture of the Roman with the Gothic style is quite perceptible in the choir; but its leading and

general character, unmistakably developed in the style of the magnificent clustered columns, and the finely pointed arches, as well as in the highly-pitched roof, is decidedly Gothic. In the nave are to be seen many ancient monuments, among which that of Richard, surnamed Strongbow, is the most conspicuous. Effigies of himself and his wife Eva appear upon this monument, with an inscription commemorative of his arrival in Ireland and of his death. Near this monument is a small tomb, upon which appears a figure representing a person cut in two, which is supposed to have reference to a melancholy event in the life of Earl Strongbow, to which allusion is made by some of our historians. Although at this distant period of time there is little but tradition to sustain the alleged act of violence thus recorded, still, the circumstance of the severed body, as it appears upon the tomb, in the immediate vicinity of Strongbow's monument, taken in connection with the tradition regarding it, awakens a feeling approaching to conviction of its verity, in the mind of the visitor.

Moore in his History of Ireland makes the following allusion to it:—"A tale is told, but on no other authority, as it appears, than tradition, of a son of Strongbow, a youth of but seventeen years of age, who, making on this occasion his first appearance on a field of battle, was so terrified by the war-cry of the Irish on advancing to the attack, that he instantly took to flight, and returning to Dublin in the utmost terror, announced that his father and all the English forces were slain. The youth, on being assured of his mistake, hastened to join the earl in his camp, and was cheerfully congratulating him on his victory, when the inhuman father drew his sword, and, as the tradition runs, cut the ill-fated youth in two."

This occurrence is said to have taken place at the battle of the pass of Idrone, in the county of Carlow, where the earl was attacked by O'Regan, the prince of that district, while hurrying from Dublin to Wexford to relieve his friend and ally, Fitz-Stephen, who was besieged in his fortress at Carrig, by the son of MacMurrough, King of Leinster, whose views regarding the affairs of the country differed from those of his deceased father.

Proceeding in a southerly direction from this ancient structure, the visitor will soon arrive at St. Patrick's Cathedral, which was erected by John Comyn, Archbishop of Dublin, on the site of an old church said to have been built by St. Patrick about the middle of the fifth century. This venerable church, dedicated by its founder to St. Patrick, was originally collegiate, but his successor, Henri de Loundres, changed it to a cathedral in the year 1225, uniting with it the Priory of the Holy Trinity, or Christ Church.

It is of cruciform character, 300 feet in length, 157 in breadth across the transepts; the nave occupying 130 feet, the choir 90; and St. Mary's Chapel, said to have been erected by Fulk de Sandford, who was interred within it, 55 feet.

The tower was erected by Archbishop Minot, in 1370, who also rebuilt a part of the cathedral which was destroyed by fire; while the spire owes its erection to a legacy bequeathed by Dr. Sterne, Bishop of Clogher, in 1750. The height of the tower is 120 feet, and that of the spire 103, making the whole height 223 feet. The north transept has been appropriated to a church, dedicated to St. Nicholas. The nave is 30 feet in width, and is divided from the aisles, which are 14 feet wide, by magnificent clustered columns, with rich capitals, from which spring the lofty and sharply-pointed arches. The entrance to the nave is by a beautiful, arched, and deeply-receding doorway, above which is a large and splendid window. The choir is the most important, as well as the most pleasing part of the edifice, and contains the bishop's throne, a fine altar-piece, and a handsome organ, reputed to be one of the best in Ireland. Considerable repairs and restorations have been made on this part of the building, whereby the capitals of the pillars, and other ornamental portions of it, have been so far improved as to present a comparatively fresh and interesting appearance. There are several monuments in this cathedral of great interest.

On the south side of the nave are several inscriptional monuments, and among them one to the memory of the celebrated Dean Swift, and one to Mrs. Johnston, the renowned "Stella," who, it is now understood, was his wife. Over the dean's monument has been placed his bust, in marble, sculptured by Cunningham, and considered a good likeness. In a corner near the south entrance is also a small tablet of white marble, erected by the dean to the memory of Alexander M'Gee, who for many years was his faithful servant. The inscription bears testimony to the discretion, fidelity, and diligence of this humble but excellent man. On my last visit to Dublin, in the month of June, 1862, I was agreeably surprised to find that restorations and improvements on a very extensive scale were being made on this venerated cathedral, at the instance of the benevolent and highly popular citizen, Benjamin Lee Guinness, Esq., whose princely munificence was strikingly manifested in the extent of the repairs, and the large number of workmen who were engaged in carrying them out. In these works is involved the renewal or rebuilding of the south transept and south aisle, and with them, doubtless, will follow other restorations of minor character. The amount of funds necessary for the completion of these most essential improvements will probably exceed £80,000.

While in this vicinity, the tourist may avail himself of the opportunity to visit the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, which is situated on a fine healthful elevation south of the Liffey, and on the site of a priory, founded by Earl Strongbow for Knights Templars, but afterwards conferred on the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem. The present building was commenced in 1680, and was finished in little more than four years, at an expense of about £24,000.

It is of quadrangular form, 306 feet by 288, enclosing an area surrounded by piazzas, forming a range of Doric arches, the central space being laid out in grass-plots, intersected with gravelled walks. The principal front, which is of cut stone, faces the north, and is crowned with a tower of two stories, containing a clock, which shows a dial to each of its four sides. Above the entrance, in the centre of this front, rises a handsome pediment, supported by four Corinthian pilasters. The great dining-hall is in the centre of this front, and is a magnificent apartment, 100 feet in length, and 45 in breadth. The lower parts of the walls are wainscoted with oak, and ornamented with military weapons; while above the wainscoting are full-length portraits, twenty-two in number, which are arranged along three of its sides. Among the portraits may be noticed one of Charles II.; those of William III., and his queen, Mary; of Queen Anne; and of several lords-lieutenant, and other distinguished persons. On the fourth side of the hall are suspended several banners, some of them trophies taken from the Seiks and Chinese. The chapel, an elegant apartment, 86 feet long and 36 wide, is on the east side of the hall, and is said to be chiefly constructed of the stones which were used in the church of the ancient priory. The altar-screen, a remarkably rich piece of carving in oak, is much admired, as are its splendid stained-glass windows, and its beautiful ceiling, which was designed by Sir Christopher Wren.

On the west of the hall is the residence of the governor, who is also the commander of the forces in Ireland. The quarters of the adjutant-general are in a handsome detached modern house, on the north of the principal building. This hospital, which was founded in the reign of Charles II. for wounded and superannuated soldiers, may be called the Chelsea of Ireland, and is capable of accommodating about 400 pensioners. The building is surrounded by an extensive and ornamental piece of ground, laid out in well-planted lawns and spacious avenues. On the north of the principal avenue, which is shaded with large and stately trees, and terminating in a striking military gateway, is the ancient burial-ground of Kilmainham, long known as "Bully's Acre." Passing from the grounds by the above-mentioned gateway, the visitor will find himself in the immediate vicinity of Kilmainham Prison, which is favourably situated on a gentle elevation, in an open and healthful locality. It is an extensive and comparatively modern building, in which are adopted all the improvements which the experience and enlightenment of the age so strongly recommend. In this vicinity, also, are situated Richmond Barracks, a very extensive range of buildings. Having noticed these institutions, the tourist may proceed to Island Bridge, viewing, as he passes onwards, the barracks in its immediate vicinity, originally erected for artillery, but at present occupied by cavalry.

Before he proceeds to the Phœnix Park, the tourist will doubtless pause to view and admire the terminus of the Great South-Western

railway at King's Bridge, which, for ornate grandeur and architectural embellishment, cannot be exceeded by any building of the kind in this or the sister country. Those who travel much at present cannot fail to be struck with the extent, and, in many instances, the magnificence of the buildings which have been erected in connection with railways; the beautiful columns, noble arches, viaducts, and bridges, and also the fine hotels which have been superinduced by them, being objects not only calculated to excite the pride and admiration of the present generation, but of those who will come after.

King's Bridge, from which the railway-station takes its name, is situated in this vicinity, and is justly considered a very fine structure. It consists of a single arch of cast-iron, 100 feet in span, resting on an abutment of ornamental granite work, and was erected as a testimonial commemorative of the visit of George IV. to this country in 1821, the first stone being laid by the Marquis of Wellesley, then Lord-Lieutenant, in 1827. It connects the fine Military Road with the south entrance to the Phœnix Park, and is a highly important as well as an ornamental feature. Passing over this bridge, and proceeding by Parkgate Street, the tourist will enter the noble park, which is the most extensive public park in her Majesty's dominions. The first object that arrests his attention on entering it, is the Royal Military Infirmary, which displays a rich granite front, composed of a centre surmounted by a handsome clock-tower and two deeply-receding wings. This fine establishment, which was founded for the benefit of military men who could not be sufficiently attended to in the ordinary hospitals, commands a delightful prospect, in which are included the river, the park, and a considerable portion of the surrounding country. The next object of attraction is the Wellington Testimonial, a heavy quadrangular obelisk, as plain in appearance as it is lofty and conspicuous. It is situated on a portion of the highest ground in the park, and based on a massive platform 480 feet in circumference and 20 feet in height, the summit of which is approached by steps. The subplinth of the pedestal, which rests on the top of the steps, is 60 feet square and 10 feet in height; while the pedestal is 56 feet square by 24 feet high; and the obelisk itself 28 feet square at the base, and 150 feet in height to its gradually-diminishing point, thus making the height of the whole monument about 205 feet. With the exception of the inscriptions on the four sides, which chronicle the names and dates of the various battles in which the illustrious soldier distinguished himself, the obelisk is destitute of ornament or decoration; save, that in front of the eastern side of the pedestal, another of smaller size rises, which was intended to form the base of an equestrian statue of the great Duke. At some distance from this monument is situated the Powder Magazine, a square fort, built in 1738, and occupying about two acres of ground, surrounded by a ditch, and entered by a drawbridge, with a half bastion on each of its angles. In the centre are situated the

magazines for ammunition, which are bomb-proof, and well protected from accidental fire. It is defended by ten 24-pounders, which are in charge of an officer, and the requisite number of artillery.

Proceeding in a direction on the right of the entrance, the visitor will soon arrive at the Constabulary Depôt, a large and handsome range of buildings, the front of which exhibits an extended centre and attached projecting wings. In front of the buildings, which form three sides of an enlarged oblong, is the magnificent parade-ground, well suited for exercise and drill purposes. Everything here seems to be conducted in accordance with strict military discipline, and the appearance and bearing of the men are perfectly soldier-like.

Advancing in the same direction, and passing east of the Zoological Gardens, which are easily distinguished by the chattering of the monkeys and the screaming of the birds, the visitor will reach the grounds appertaining to the Vice-regal Lodge, and will doubtless be struck with the rich lawns and meadows, margined with large and spreading trees, which in this vicinity present themselves. Arriving at the Lodge, he will feel some surprise at its comparatively plain appearance, and looking upon it as the summer residence of the representative of royalty, he will doubtless be likely to consider it of very unpretending character. Its principal front is to the north, and is entered in the centre beneath a portico, formed by four Ionic columns supporting a pediment, with which the remainder of the façade may be said to correspond. Passing onwards by the grand entrance, the tourist will notice in the centre of the extensive area, formed by the junction of the four leading avenues of the park, the light and elegant Phœnix Column, erected by the Earl of Chesterfield, during his lieutenancy, in 1745. This beautiful Corinthian column, with its fluted shaft and splendid capital, resting on a rich pedestal, and surmounted by the imaginary bird, the phœnix, from which the park is supposed to take its name, is 30 feet in height. It appears, however, according to some authorities, that the term Phœnix, as applied to the park, owes its origin to the Irish word *Fionn-nisge*, pronounced Finniske, which signifies "fair water;" and as we find that a spring possessing rare medicinal properties was long known to exist in a glen near the grand entrance to the Vice-regal residence, we may fairly infer that this was the fair water alluded to, and pronounced Finniske, so nearly alike in sound to the English word Phœnix. That the Irish word may have been corrupted and changed into the name of the fabled bird, is not improbable; but however that may be, the figure of the phœnix crowning the pillar leaves no room for doubt as to the opinion which was entertained in reference to this subject by the erudite and accomplished founder of the column. The potent spring mentioned here was enclosed and covered in, some fifty years ago, by a small structure, composed of Portland stone, the summit being decorated with the figure of an eagle, emblematic of its supposed healing qualities, so conducive to health and long life.

West of the column is the lodge and demesne of the Chief Secretary, a very delightful summer residence. The house, although not so large as that of his Excellency the Lord-Lieutenant, is a regular and handsome edifice; the Under Secretary has also a residence in the park. From this vicinity can be obtained a fine view of that portion of the park called the Fifteen Acres, which is used for reviewing and exercising the troops.

On the south-west of the Phœnix pillar is situated the Hibernian School, founded in the year 1769, for the benefit of the children of soldiers serving in Ireland. This building, which consists of a centre and connecting wings, is 300 feet in length, exclusive of the dining-hall, infirmary, and chapel. There are nineteen acres attached to the institution, which were wont to be cultivated by some of the boys of the establishment. The children, whose education is carefully attended to, are at a proper age apprenticed to trades, or transferred to the army; of latter years a martial spirit is encouraged and inculcated amongst them. From the extent of the park, which contains 1,750 acres, and is seven statute miles in circumference, it can scarcely be seen to advantage by those who confine themselves to a single walk over its widely spreading surface. It would, therefore, be advisable for the tourist to avail himself of one of the Dublin cars, whose intelligent and experienced driver could point out in a leisurely ride the several interesting views which can be obtained from various parts of it. The citizens of Dublin possess an invaluable acquisition in this splendid park, which from early morn until a late hour of the evening is open to them. It is at the early hour of morning especially that its beauties can be seen to the fullest advantage, and the influence of its health-inspiring air can be felt most sensibly. At such a time, with the atmosphere clear and unclouded, before the smoky vapour of the city has deteriorated its freshness and purity, it would be impossible for the admirer of unalloyed loveliness to enjoy a greater treat than can be obtained here. Its great extent, its fine undulating surface, its charming variety, combining miniature lakes, romantic glens, shady walks, and pleasing retreats, together with its fine, elevated situation, which renders it open to the bracing and invigorating breezes of the neighbouring mountains, confer upon it natural advantages which cannot be exceeded in this country. Although it lacks the artificial ornaments which a liberal appropriation of the revenues arising from the quit-rents of Ireland confer upon the parks of London, still the views from many parts of it, so diversified and beautiful—in which are included portions of the winding river, the Grand Canal, the splendid park scenery of the adjoining country, and in the distance the varied outline of the mountains of Dublin and Wicklow—are such as to impress the mind of the visitor with exalted notions of its paramount superiority.

Having thus indulged his curiosity in viewing the objects of interest which so plentifully abound on both sides of the intersecting river, the

tourist, availing himself of the advantages afforded by the omnibuses which start from the Nelson Monument, in Sackville Street, at half-hourly intervals, will have convenient opportunities for visiting Rathmines, on the south, and Clontarf, on the north side of the city. Proceeding by that which plies to Rathmines through a leading and fashionable part of the metropolis, and alighting at Portobello, a fine, open, and healthful locality, he will find many objects worthy of his attention. Among these may be mentioned the works of the Grand Canal, including its capacious harbour, and the fine bridges by which, in this vicinity, it is spanned. Of the great importance formerly attached to the canal and its harbour, evidence is to be found in the large and handsome building which was erected for, and used as, an hotel, but which at present is unoccupied. The introduction of railways has wrought a great change in the interests and working of canals in general. The gardens in the neighbourhood have been long celebrated for the delightful recreation they afford, and are entitled to the stranger's notice; they are well and fashionably attended in the summer season. On the south bank of the canal, and west of the Rathmines road, are the extensive cavalry barracks, which cover a very large space of ground, and consist of two spacious quadrangles, which communicate with each other by a central gate. Besides the extensive range of buildings for the accommodation of the soldiers, and the stabling for their horses, there is a hospital capable of containing forty patients; and near the gate which leads to the fine walk on the margin of the canal, a neat chapel, for those who belong to the Established church. Those of the Roman Catholic persuasion attend at the fine Catholic church of Rathmines, which is nearly opposite the principal entrance to the barracks. This church is a new and elegant building of cruciform construction, its form being that of a Greek cross, with a magnificent dome rising above the intersection of the transepts. The interior is very beautiful, and the ornamental workmanship, and decoration in general, some of the richest to be seen in any of the Catholic churches in Dublin.

Returning to the Nelson Monument, and proceeding by the omnibus to Clontarf, the visitor will notice, near the handsome station-house of the Dublin and Drogheda railway, the new Roman Catholic church of St. Laurence O'Toole, a fine large structure in the pointed Gothic style of architecture, with nave, transept, and side aisles. When passing onward in this direction, he will obtain a view of Aldborough House, formerly the town residence of the earls of that name, but long since converted into a military barrack. The pride of an Irishman becomes somewhat subdued when he beholds the palaces and mansions of the hereditary nobility of the country converted into museums and barracks, and the houses of legislation appropriated to monetary and mercantile establishments. Nor is it less disheartening to find the principal building in the city connected with manufacture, namely, the Linen Hall, changed into an abode for soldiers. Half a century's

experience, however, would seem to have reconciled the citizens of Dublin to such changes. The ancient nobility, who were wont to have winter residences in the city, are now, with few exceptions, almost unknown in it, and live in the remembrance of its inhabitants by name only. Their places, however, are partially filled by a body of men who have a high claim to the respect and regard of their fellow-citizens. These are the merchants and men of business, who, in days of progress such as we are at present living in, must be considered the true friends and benefactors of their country and their kind; and whose enterprise and public spirit, whose practical views, and utilitarian efforts in extending commerce, in constructing railroads, and developing the resources of the country in general, have done much to repair the injury inflicted on the land of their birth by the withdrawal of a native parliament. It is to such men as the Guinnesses, the Roes, the Powers, the Ennises, the Sweetmans, the Jamesons, the Vances, the Kinahans, the O'Connors, and many others of the same class, that the people of Dublin must look up for the future, as the substitutes of those who by the Act of Union were rendered non-resident, by being obliged to spend so large a portion of their time in London. It is gratifying to know that Dublin, like many other parts of Ireland, is at present exhibiting unmistakable signs of improvement, and that the valuable class, the mechanics and artisans of the city, were in 1856, as well as in subsequent years, in the enjoyment of constant and profitable employment. Evidence of this was to be found in the works of the Dublin and Wicklow railway, then in progress; in those which were being carried out at Trinity College; on the lawn of the Dublin Society at Leinster Place; and at the Mountjoy Prison, where extensive additions were being made. These works, together with the building and repairing of churches in the city, have been productive of the most decided advantages, and afford reasonable grounds for entertaining hopes of a cheerful and prosperous future.

Among the fine churches in this city, the visitor's attention becomes directed to the Catholic Metropolitan Cathedral, known as the Church of the Immaculate Conception, a large and massive building in the Grecian Doric style of architecture, situated in Marlborough Street. Before the centre of the grand front, which displays itself to the street, rises a rich portico, formed by six fluted Doric columns supporting an entablature complete in all its parts, surmounted by a prolonged angular pediment, on the apex of which is a beautiful statue of the Blessed Virgin, with one of St. Patrick on one extremity of it, and of St. Laurence O'Toole on the other. In a recess on one side of the interior of the church are two fine pieces of monumental sculpture by Thomas Farrell, Esq., one of them a statue of his grace Dr. Murray, the beloved and greatly lamented Archbishop of Dublin, and the other that of a valued and useful citizen, Peter Purcell, Esq. The erection and decoration of this church, which is remarkable for its air, of

solemn grandeur, cost about £50,000. Proceeding by this route to the Glasnevin Cemetery, which should not be overlooked, the visitor will notice St. George's Protestant Church, in Hardwicke Place, which is an uncommonly beautiful building, the front of which displays a projecting portico, formed by four fluted Ionic columns resting on an elevated platform, and supporting a rich entablature, surmounted by a triangular pediment, the frieze and cornice being carried round the entire building. Above the pediment rises the elegant tower of four highly-ornamental stories, supporting the light and graceful spire, which attains an elevation of 200 feet from the base of the church. This splendid structure was completed at an expense of £90,000. The Roman Catholic Church of St. Xavier, in Upper Gardiner Street, cannot fail to attract the visitor's notice while in this quarter of the city. It is considered one of the most perfect and beautiful specimens of its kind in Ireland, being in the Ionic style of architecture, in the form of a Latin cross, with a lofty portico in the centre of the front. On each side a receding wing, forming a handsome vestibule, leads into the interior, the decoration of which is at once chaste and beautiful, and perfectly in keeping with the characteristic richness of the exterior. The organ, which was built for the great Westminster festival, is considered one of the finest in Ireland. The Roman Catholic Church, situated at Clarendon Street, is worthy of the visitor's notice, were it only for the advantage of seeing the splendid piece of statuary, by Hogan, which is deposited there. This masterly performance, the faithful representation of a dead Christ, cannot fail to interest the beholder, while it will serve as an undying memorial of the genius of the great artist. The statue, which is of the finest Italian marble, is carefully placed beneath the principal altar-table; but the clerk or sexton, who resides in the immediate vicinity of the church, is at all times ready and willing to minister to the gratification of respectable parties, by showing them this precious and almost unrivalled work of art.

On Merchants' Quay is situated the commodious church long known as the Adam and Eve Chapel. It belongs to the Friars of the Franciscan order, and is a fine cruciform structure, with a gallery in the end of the nave and in each transept, whereby accommodation is afforded to a large congregation. The area in front of the church has lately been graced by an appropriate building, which contains apartments for the brethren of the establishment. It shows a rich façade in the Italian style, which is on a line with the adjoining houses, and being constructed of pure granite, it presents a chaste and ornamental appearance. There are many other fine houses of worship, both Protestant and Catholic, in the city, which are worthy of the visitor's attention.

Arriving at Glasnevin Cemetery, the first object that strikes upon the visitor's view is the Tower Pillar recently erected as a monument to the great Daniel O'Connell. The design of this monument, which

is a fac-simile of the ancient and curious "round towers" of Ireland, that have formed the subject of so much speculation and controversy among the learned, was strongly recommended by Dr. Petrie, who has devoted so much thought and research to the nature and origin of these ancient structures. From their national character, and, as the learned doctor thinks, their connection with religious worship, they form appropriate models for the monument of him who was not more remarkable for his love of country than for his attachment to its ancient creed. Their massive and substantial construction, too, renders them fitting models for the monument of one whose fame will outlive even the apparently time-enduring mausoleum, which has been raised by a grateful country as a tribute of respect and affection to its greatest and most elevated patriot. This tower stands on the western side of the cemetery, within a large circular area, on a portion of which, it is said, the committee appointed to carry out the objects contemplated by the subscribers, purpose building a chapel. When this desirable object is accomplished, the friends and admirers of the illustrious deceased will have reason to be satisfied with the successful termination of their labours. A more accurate description of the monument cannot well be given than that which has been already stated,—in all respects it resembles the celebrated round towers of the country. There is this difference, however, that while the generality of the ancient towers are built of the ordinary description of stone peculiar to the district in which they have been erected, this one is constructed of granite. In altitude and circumference it is at least equal to any of its prototypes, and resembles the generality of them in the doorway, which is at a considerable distance from the ground, and cannot be entered without a ladder. Of course there is an entrance to the vault, in which the remains are deposited, on a level with the surrounding surface. As is the case in all round towers, there are small apertures at different stages in the sides of this structure; those near the summit, one facing each of the cardinal points, being of larger size. Its conical roof is surmounted by a plain massive cross, an appendage which is to be found only on the round tower at Swords. In other parts of Ireland, monuments are now being erected as mementoes of this first of Irishmen, whose eminent services and great sacrifices entitle him to the everlasting gratitude of the Irish people. But while all that is rich in material, beautiful in design, and chaste in execution, whether from the sculptor's chisel, or the furnaces of Paris or Birmingham, is likely to be brought into requisition for their adornment, the Glasnevin monument, with its plain tower and appropriate chapel, will have more attractions for the patriot pilgrim than the finest brass or marble.

Glasnevin Cemetery, so creditable to the citizens of Dublin, and affording such evidence of taste and refinement, covers an area of about nine acres, nicely laid out with intersecting walks, and richly planted with trees and ornamental shrubs. The monuments are very

numerous, and many of them very beautiful. Among these is the handsome monument to Mr. Ruthven, a patriotic Irishman, at one time the colleague of O'Connell in the representation of the city of Dublin. That to the memory of the renowned Irish orator, John Philpot Curran, is considered one of the finest to be seen in the cemetery. The tomb, which is a striking representation of a sarcophagus of the Doric order, richly sculptured, is composed of huge blocks of granite, the largest, perhaps, ever used for any such purpose in Ireland, each of them weighing from four to five tons. The height of the monument is about 8 feet; and the joints between the blocks being so ingeniously and accurately fitted as to be quite imperceptible, causes the tomb to appear an entire mass of granite. It was twenty years after his death before the remains of this distinguished orator and patriot were brought over from London, where he died, and placed in this, their final resting-place. The remains of the ardent and chivalrous Tom Steele, the constant and devoted friend and follower of O'Connell, repose in a vault at a short distance from those of his great and admired leader. This cemetery is much resorted to by the citizens, most of whom have some dear friend or relative interred there. Independently of personal considerations, however, an occasional visit to the tombs of the dead cannot fail to prove advantageous to any reflecting and thoughtful man. How profitable the lessons which are to be derived from contemplating the history and career of those whom we have known, and loved, and honoured! Feelings akin to those which are shadowed forth in the beautiful Elegy of the amiable poet Gray, or in the pleasing Meditations of the philosophic Hervey, seem to take possession of the mind at such moments; and although they are naturally sad and solemn, still, they are not altogether of a painful nature. Could the soul-subduing eloquence of the heaven-inspired Curran, or the sonorous and transcendental power of O'Connell's oratory, speak more forcibly to the feeling heart than does the mute silence that surrounds the classic tomb of the one, and the cross-crowned tower which constitutes the monument of the other?

The Glasnevin Botanical Gardens are situated at a short distance from the cemetery, and, from their variety and extent, are worthy of a visit. They comprise about thirty acres of ground, and are open to the public on Tuesdays and Fridays. Their fine undulating surface, through which the clear waters of the Tolka flow, is elegantly laid out, and shaded by overhanging trees; while the intersecting walks are adorned with numerous shrubs and beautiful flowers. In the splendid conservatories are to be seen a vast variety of rare and valuable trees and plants, native and exotic. At the south side of the city, in the vicinity of Ball's Bridge, are situated the College Botanical Gardens, which contain about half-a-dozen acres, nicely laid out and carefully attended to; but they are neither so attractive nor so much frequented as those at Glasnevin. The Mount

Jerome Cemetery, is also situated on the south side of the city, in the immediate vicinity of the ample green at Harold's Cross. It is very favourably placed, and although of more recent formation than that of Glasnevin, presents an interesting and beautiful appearance. The monuments here are very numerous, and for the most part of elegant design. That to the memory of the celebrated Thomas Davis, the prophet and the guide of the Young Ireland party, to whom his amiable qualities and high literary attainments greatly endeared him, is surmounted by an exceedingly beautiful life-size statue of white marble, which is considered an admirable likeness of him who sleeps "the sleep that knows not waking." The fine mansion of the governor of the cemetery, and the church appropriated to the service of the dead, are situated within the precincts of the grounds.

Returning from Glasnevin, and proceeding by Upper and Lower Dominick Street, the visitor's attention should be directed to the new and handsome church which has been recently erected on the eastern side of the latter street. This large structure, which is of elegant design, is a conventual church, built by the Dominican Fathers on the site formerly occupied by an abbey and church of their renowned order. It was formally opened for divine service in the month of January, 1861, and from its fine proportions and admirable workmanship, is considered by some of the most competent judges to be equal, in an architectural point of view, to any church of its size in the city. St. Saviour's, as it is called, is in the enriched Gothic style of architecture, 175 feet in length, 65 in its general breadth, exclusive of the buttresses, and 84 feet at the chapels —one at the extremity of the western end of each aisle. The nave is divided from the aisles by magnificent and richly-moulded cut stone arches, eight in number on each side, which spring from elegant clustered columns. Above the grand entrance that fronts the street, there is an ornamental range of finely wrought canopied niches, over which appears a splendid rose-window, about 18 feet 6 inches in diameter. The two windows of the chancel, which rise to a height of 30 feet, are flanked externally by graduating buttresses, and will, of course, be hereafter enriched with stained-glass. The clerestory windows, eight on each side, are the largest and finest to be seen in any church in Dublin. They are of three lights, with beautiful and varied tracery in their finely formed heads, no two of them being alike in their fanciful designs, their shape being what is designated "middle point." St. Saviour's was designed by Mr. McCarthy, under whom its details have been carried out, and upon whom it reflects no small degree of credit.

I have reserved for the conclusion of my notice of the metropolis, Leinster House, formerly the princely residence of the Duke of Leinster, but at present occupied by the Royal Dublin Society for the improvement of husbandry, manufactures, and other useful matters in connection with the arts and sciences. The foundation

of this valuable and important body dates so far back as 1731, since which time its utility and efficiency have never ceased; and it can lay claim to the singular merit of being the parent of all the societies of the same description at present existing in Europe. The sum annually voted by the Irish parliament for the maintenance of the Society, and the furtherance of its objects, was £10,000; but since the Union it has been cut down to half that amount. The splendid mansion which was purchased by the Society in the year 1815, from "Ireland's only duke," for £20,000, is 140 feet in length, and 70 feet in depth, and is entered from Kildare Street by a rich and massive gateway of rustic masonry. Before the principal or western front, which is of the Corinthian order, supported by Doric columns at each angle, there is a spacious courtyard, and in the rear an extensive lawn, that faces Merrion Square, upon which the great Industrial Exhibition was erected. The entrance hall, a fine lofty apartment, is enriched with casts taken from figures by the first masters, one of them an Apollo Belvedere; and with busts executed by artists who had been pupils of the Society. There are also admirable specimens of sculpture to be seen here, including among others, a colossal statue of George IV.; "Adam and Eve;" "Youth at the Stream;" "Caractacus;" "Theseus and Hippodamia." The museum and library are approached from the hall, by a spacious double staircase. The library is in the east wing, and is 64 feet in length and 24 in breadth, surrounded by a light gallery. The museum occupies a suite of six rooms, containing miscellaneous curiosities, consisting of objects relating to geological science, with specimens of animals, mineralogy, and rare samples of botany. Among the animal specimens is a very perfect skeleton of the fossil giant deer of Ireland. The museum is open to the public on Tuesdays and Fridays, from twelve till three o'clock; and admission to the library can be obtained through the introduction of a member. Large buildings 180 feet in length by 50 in breadth, and equal in elevation to the parent structure, Leinster House, have been lately erected on the lawn of this establishment—one on the north, and the other on the south side of the square. These fine structures occupy two sides of the area on which stood the memorable Industrial Palace, and are constructed of cut stone. Their extensive fronts exhibit a solid and substantial richness, rather than an elaborate decoration, showing a series of ornamental blank windows, the interior being chiefly lighted from the roof. Mr. Cockburn, the gentleman under whose superintendence the lecture-hall of Trinity College was brought to its present perfection, is likewise the builder engaged in these important and extensive works.

To the enterprise and public spirit of the Royal Dublin Society the people of Ireland are in a great measure indebted for the advantage they enjoyed in witnessing the great Industrial Exhibition of 1853, which may be said to have grown out of the triennial exhibitions established by it some thirty years ago; but, although the groundwork for such

a project had been laid thus early, it could not have been developed on so grand a scale but for the great liberality of the patriotic William Dargan, Esq., who so generously supplied the funds necessary to carry it into active operation. Having witnessed the great London Exhibition in the year 1851, I felt, as I have no doubt many others did, a good deal sceptical as to the success of the Irish Industrial project; and I confess it was not without considerable doubt that I approached the interesting temple at Merrion Square. The external appearance, too, of the Dublin Palace, although very beautiful, was so far short, both as regarded the size and splendour, of the immense and dazzling Hyde Park emporium, that my fears increased in proportion with my proximity to it. Those fears, however, were alike subdued and dissipated as I entered the never-to-be-forgotten arena of Irish genius and taste. I was struck with astonishment when its brilliant, its overpowering grandeur burst upon my view. My first impulse impelled me to raise my heart in thankfulness to that great Being, who thus, notwithstanding the immediately preceding years of destitution, enabled my native country to make so enviable a demonstration of her capabilities and resources. My next feeling was that of gratitude to him whose patriotism and munificence called into existence the magnificent structure within which I stood. In the western extremity of the central hall, on an elevated platform, stood the colossal statue of the renowned William Dargan. In this surprisingly faithful likeness, the thoughtful, reflective, and self-sustaining spirit of the man was truthfully developed; while the massive pedestal on which it stood formed an appropriate indication of an enduring and imperishable fame This fine statue, so true to nature, at present occupies a prominent position in the great Crystal Palace at Sydenham. On entering the Fine Arts Hall, the visitor at once became attracted by the large numbers of anxious spectators who were engaged in indulging their admiration of Danby's great picture of the Deluge. Next to this, the observed of all observers, was the fine portrait of a military chief, which proved to be a faithful likeness of "our own, our gallant Gough," who has since been elevated to the rank of Field-Marshal. His upright and active figure, his silvery locks and white moustache, left no doubt as to his identity. In another department of the Exhibition, called after him, the Gough Compartment, were to be seen numerous trophies of war which were taken by the noble Viscount from the enemy. These consisted of howitzers, guns, matchlocks, pistols, and swords—one of them two-handed—and other grotesque weapons and ornaments, most of which were mounted and inlaid with gilding, thus proving that those from whom they were wrested valued and appreciated them very highly. But what were the sensations created by these, and such as these, to the pure and unalloyed incense of admiration that was breathed forth in scarcely audible accents by his grateful countrymen—ay, and by his countrywomen too; for well I know there is not a lady in all the land who, in her heart, would

not gladly wish that her lover, her husband, or her brother, might some day become like to him whose gallant spirit and hardy frame neither an arid climate nor the hand of war, nor even the hand of time, has hitherto been able to subdue. There he stood, after all his toils and victories, such a model as the painter gladly avails himself of when he is anxious faithfully to portray the true gentleman and gallant soldier. It is not by any means my intention at this distant interval to enter into a detailed description of the contents of the elegantly arranged compartments of the Exhibition; even if I had the will, I certainly have not the ability to do so with anything like a chance of success. Besides, the official catalogues and the Dublin press have conveyed to the reading public a more accurate and faithful account of the whole than any single writer, however gifted, could be expected to accomplish.

One of the most remarkable and beautiful, as it is one of the most modern buildings in the city, is the new Club-house, recently erected at the end of Kildare Street, adjoining Leinster Street, to replace that occupied by the Kildare Street Club-house, which was destroyed by fire about three years ago. This elegant structure, which is composed of the finest brick, and decorated with marble columns, door-jambs, architraves, and mouldings, of the purest granite, shows its extensive and principal front to Kildare Street, and a highly ornamented but more limited front to Leinster Street. It was opened for the reception of the members in the autumn of 1861, and from the richness and splendour of the furniture, and internal ornaments in general, commands the admiration of the best judges in matters of that kind; while its noble exterior constitutes it a striking acquisition to this part of the metropolis.

Having thus endeavoured to place before my readers the most leading and prominent features in this the second city of the empire, I have to express my regret that want of space has prevented me from noticing other objects worthy the stranger's attention. Among these may be enumerated many of the charitable institutions, as well as several of the churches and chapels of ease connected with the Established Church, and also places of worship which belong to the dissenting congregations. Of these, besides the Presbyterians and Methodists, there are meeting-houses for Independents, Baptists, Unitarians, Moravians, and the Society of Friends, or Quakers. Nor have I been able to enter on a description of the churches and chapels of the several Religious houses, including those of the Augustinian Friars, the nunneries, the Presentation, the Carmelite, the Ursuline, and the pious and devoted Sisters of Mercy—those ministering angels who are so frequently to be seen noiselessly pursuing their way, regardless of consequences, to the habitations of misery and disease; and who, by their saintly lives, although being of this world, seem as if they do not belong to it, but have been raised above and beyond it.

In some of my recent visits to the metropolis, I noticed a new and beautiful Roman Catholic church at Meath Street—a fine edifice, in the enriched Gothic style, which shows its handsome front to the street. Another fine church of this persuasion, in the Gothic style of architecture, has recently been erected in James Street. It shows a handsome granite front to the street; the door is in the centre, between projecting buttresses, that, rising to the summit of the second story, end in octangular pillars, which are carried to the third story of the tower. A series of lofty arches, eight on each side, which spring from rich columns, divide the nave from the aisles. Besides the grand chancel window, there is an elegant Gothic window of three lights above the principal entrance. The end and side windows of the aisles, as well as those of the clerestory, are of two lights. A new Protestant church, a remarkably neat and beautiful structure, of cruciform character, in the enriched Gothic style, has also been lately erected in the same street, and with its appropriate tower and elegant spire is a very interesting feature.

Proceeding to that part of the quay immediately opposite the Royal Barracks, the tourist will notice one of the latest structures of a public character which have been erected in the city. This is the new bridge, lately built on the site of a former bridge, which was originally a wooden structure, that, from a fatal affray which took place upon it, was called Bloody Bridge. More recently, however, the late bridge, built of stone, on the site of the former, in 1761, from its vicinity to the Royal Barracks was designated Barrack Bridge. Within the last seven or eight years, this structure had been showing unmistakable symptoms of weakness and decay; and in order to ensure the public safety, the authorities, about three years since, caused it to be taken down, and a new bridge to be erected upon its site; which is a handsome structure of cast iron, of a single arch, 100 feet in span, resting upon massive abutments. It was opened during her Gracious Majesty's visit to Dublin, in August, 1861, and in compliment to her, was named the Victoria and Albert Bridge. The Royal Barracks, in its immediate vicinity, are very commodious, and afford accommodation for two regiments of infantry and one of cavalry.

The Theatre Royal, Hawkins Street, and the Queen's Theatre, Great Brunswick Street, are both admirably conducted; and without sacrificing the interests of the performers to the "starring system," as was heretofore too much the practice, the managers endeavour, besides their own well-organised companies, to place before the citizens the first talent, both operatic and otherwise, that London can produce. Many of the literary and scientific institutions have been, for want of space, reluctantly passed over.

Among the many beautiful places in the neighbourhood of Dublin, the first in importance, as it is in elegance and refinement, is Kingstown. This rising and very interesting town may be said to owe its importance chiefly to its magnificent harbour of refuge, which has caused

it to become the point of arrival and departure for the powerful steam-vessels that carry the mails between England and Ireland, by way of Holyhead; and also to its splendid line of railway, the first established in this country, and the second in the British empire. As the average length of time consumed in the passage from Holyhead to Kingstown, a distance of sixty miles, does not exceed four and a half hours, the principal passenger traffic between both countries is by this route. The railway carriages run continuously, at intervals of half an hour, from a period of the morning sufficiently early to convey the mails and passengers to the steamers, and sufficiently late at night to meet the arrival of the Holyhead mail, and bring the passengers to Dublin; thus affording the most ample accommodation, with a degree of promptitude and regularity that cannot be surpassed. Kingstown may be said to owe much of its prosperity to another cause, which was the propitious visit of George IV. to this country, in 1821; since which period it has been gradually rising, from a comparatively humble condition, to the enviable position it now enjoys. Previously to this visit, it was known merely as the fishing village of Dunleary. The harbour is considered one of the finest artificial asylums for ships in the United Kingdom; for, although falling somewhat short, in the opinion of nautical men, of what a little more foresight and a comparatively inconsiderable expense might have made it, still the works are such as to command the approbation of all who are capable of forming a judgment on such important undertakings. Those who have ventured to pronounce upon its utility say, that if the south-eastern wall had been extended about a furlong or so, and with sufficient curve to have overlapped the north-eastern wall, much more shelter, and consequently more safety, would have been afforded. The harbour comprises an area of 250 acres, with a depth of from 15 to 27 feet; the entrance is defined by lights constructed on the most approved principles.

The Dublin and Kingstown railway, which was opened for traffic on the 17th of December, 1834, and constructed at an expense of £340,000, has been recently transferred by mutual agreement to the Dublin and Wicklow Company, who are also the proprietors of the Dublin and Dundrum line, the terminus of which is at Hartcourt Road.

The journey from Dublin to Kingstown, whether by car or railway, is almost equally interesting. The view from the road is extensive and beautiful, embracing the whole of the widely-spreading bay, together with the Killiney hills on the south, and the Hill of Howth on the north. The elegant villas and cottages, however, are seen to more advantage from the railway, as they line, and, in some instances, almost overhang the sloping bank on the south side of the rails. Pleasure trips are frequently made on Sundays, whereby parties wishing to avail themselves of the advantage may proceed to

Wicklow or Bray, leaving by the Dundrum line, which affords an excellent view of the north-western side of the Killiney hills, and also of the rugged eastern face of the Three Rock Mountain; and returning by the Kingstown line, whereby an admirable view is obtained of the capacious bay, and of the south-eastern side of the interesting heights of Killiney, with the numerous picturesque and fanciful seats with which that charming locality abounds. These important undertakings, which afford such facilities for every-day intercourse, as might naturally be expected, have superinduced such a degree of gradually increasing prosperity, as to leave no room for doubt or apprehension as regards the future of Kingstown. The general appearance of this rising and fashionable town is highly prepossessing, the streets being commodious and regular, and the houses for the most part new and well built. George's Street especially, which is about half a mile in length, presents a fine appearance, and, when lighted at night with gas, has quite a city-like aspect. The purity of the air and the beauty of the situation, together with the facilities it affords for sea-bathing, cause it to be greatly resorted to in the summer season. Its popularity is considerably enhanced by the advantage which its splendid bay affords for yachting; and, consequently, a large proportion of the nobility and gentry of the country, who indulge a predilection for that healthful enjoyment, make it their place of rendezvous for the summer months, and compete with each other in testing the sailing qualities of their respective craft, in well-regulated and interesting regattas. Ranges of buildings, forming handsome terraces, and inhabited chiefly by the opulent citizens of Dublin, are to be seen, not only in the town itself, but also in many parts of the intervening distance between it and the metropolis. In fact, the whole distance may be looked upon as a continuation of the city, so closely is it studded with neat and elegant mansions and villas. Many years ago, soon after its change of name, Mr. Gresham, by the outlay of a large capital, contributed greatly to the improvement of the town. The beautiful terrace that overlooks the jetty, the harbour, and the bay, and the commodious hotel, were built by him, and are quite worthy of the fine situation which they occupy, and of the favourable notice bestowed upon them by her Gracious Majesty the Queen, who granted her permission that the intended square, of which they form the western side, should be called after herself, "Victoria Square." The terrace consists of nine houses, in perfect uniformity with each other, three stories in height, with rusticated basements, and neat pediments over the doors. The Royal Hotel, which is principally occupied by private families, who engage their apartments for the season, is situated immediately south of the terrace, and is approached by the same open and handsome avenue. It is entered by a double door, beneath a portico of four fluted Tuscan columns, supporting an entablature, over which is an elegant balcony. In the rear of the balcony appear the royal arms, finely emblazoned

in bronze. In front of the terrace and the hotel, are the Gresham Gardens, which are surrounded and intersected by walks, bordered with ornamental shrubs and flowers, and furnished with seats, judiciously placed, for the use and convenience of the visitors to the hotel, and the occupiers of the terrace dwellings. On the north side of the Sussex Parade, immediately opposite the Gresham Terrace, is the Roman Catholic church, a very fine edifice, erected about twenty years since at an expense of £4,000. It is nicely fitted up, and furnished with all the requisites for an elegant house of worship. In the month of August, 1856, it underwent a process of embellishment at the hands of artisans from the firm of Hardman, Early, and Company, Birmingham. The principal altar-piece, a splendid representation of the Crucifixion, was presented to the church many years ago by Mr. Gresham. The Protestant church of the district is situated at Monkstown, and is at present, the month of June, 1862, undergoing extensive repairs and improvements, whereby it will be considerably enlarged, and rendered a very handsome house of worship. In its vicinity are a couple of ancient ruins; one of them, a square castellated structure, is in a state of comparative preservation. At some distance south of the Gresham Terrace is a new plain building, of modern erection, which is called the Marine Church. There are also chapels for Presbyterians and Wesleyan Methodists in the town.

The walks and rides that neighbour this charming watering-place are picturesque and beautiful; and the promenade on the jetty, where the military bands from the city play, is particularly gay and attractive. In this vicinity are several fine buildings, whose architectural proportions give additional importance to the locality which they enrich and beautify. These are the splendid Club-houses, and the station-house of the railway, which, with their rich façades and columnar ornaments, excite the admiration of the visitor. At some distance south-west of the St. George Club House, is the obelisk erected to commemorate the visit of George IV. to Ireland. It is a remarkable object, being a square, tapering, panelled pillar, surmounted by a diadem, that, like the pillar itself, is composed of granite, standing on four massive balls, which rest upon a plain platform, supported on the naturally rounded summit of an ordinary rock. It is far from being an imposing or beautiful feature, and is by no means worthy of the character of a great and powerful monarch; but it is to be presumed that the committee under whose direction it was erected, considered it an appropriate testimonial to him whose visit it was intended to record. Besides the Club-house mentioned above, the Royal Yacht Club, and the Royal Hotel, there are two other excellent hotels in the town, one of them the Anglesey Arms, a house of first-rate character.

Proceeding to the Killiney hills, the tourist will have an opportunity of noticing the numerous recent improvements which have been effected in what must now be considered a continuation of the gay

and beautiful Kingstown. Indeed, it would be difficult for a person well versed in the geography of the neighbourhood to draw a line of demarcation between Kingstown, Sandycove, Bullock, and Dalkey. These interesting places, with their several avenues, terraces, fine mansions, and beautiful villas, each vying, as it were, with the other for a distinctive superiority, render it almost impossible for a stranger to be enabled to say where one of them ends and the other commences. While viewing, one after another, these objects of taste and refinement, the conviction becomes strongly impressed upon the mind, that the nobility and gentry of Ireland, possessing the advantages which these beauteous and healthful places afford, have but little excuse for becoming permanent absentees from their own favoured country. The identity of ancient Bullock, however, is rendered manifest by the ruins of its massive castle, a large building of octagonal construction; while Dalkey, by its two hoary castellated buildings, which are situated in the centre of the old town, is also rendered sufficiently perceptible. Adjoining one of these castles are the remains of an ancient church. The presence of these warlike structures, which are still in tolerable preservation, together with the evidence afforded of so many of the officers of the English government having used Dalkey as a place for their arrival and departure when visiting this country, furnishes attestation of its early importance. In the face of an upright rock, which stands above the sheltered landing cove, nearly opposite Dalkey Island, inscriptions have been cut which state that, in the year 1555, Sir Anthony St. Ledger landed here; and that Sir Edward Bellingham arrived here in 1558. It also records the departure, in the same year, of the Earl of Sussex, who embarked his army at this place and proceeded to Rathlin Island for the purpose of repelling the Scottish forces, who had effected a landing on that island. In the year 1414, Sir John Talbot, afterwards celebrated as the Earl of Shrewsbury, landed here, to take upon himself the vice-royalty of the island. We find that a charter of incorporation was conferred upon Dalkey in the year 1358, by Edward III. Near one of the ancient castles, and opposite the other, which stands on the eastern side of the street, is situated the fine Catholic church, a new and commodious building of cruciform construction, with a neat pinnacled tower. The Protestant church, also a new and very handsome edifice, in the pointed Gothic style, is situated near the sea-shore, at some distance from the town, and is a remarkably striking feature. The Nunnery is situated in the same locality, and is a grand and imposing pile, which, standing as it does above the verge of the shore, and, from its position, open to observation from the entire bay, attracts the marked attention of the mariner; and, with its attached chapel and school, is doubtless considered by him a very beautiful and interesting object. Dalkey Island, long used as a place of popular resort by the citizens of Dublin, to whom it afforded an easy and convenient rendezvous for the indulgence of their convivial partialities, is separated from the

mainland by a channel called Dalkey Sound, which is about 1,200 yards long, and 320 wide. It comprises about 25 statute acres, more than half of which afford good pasturage. On the island is the ruin of a small church, that was dedicated to St. Benedict; and at a short distance from it a well, the waters of which are said to be efficacious for the cure of weak and delicate eyes. The only inhabitants on it are a few artillerymen who are in charge of a small battery, mounting three 24-pounders. Proceeding towards Killiney, several interesting objects attract the attention of the visitor, among which may be mentioned some new and fanciful villas, occupying the side of an acclivity above the roadway, that passes through a valley, to which has been given the oriental appellation of the "Khyber Pass."

Beyond this remarkable place, and immediately above the shore of the capacious bay, a range of very fine houses, erected some years since by the Rev. Doctor Macdonnell, Provost of Trinity College, has been called Sorrento Terrace. Ascending the heights from this point, the tourist will soon arrive at the Telegraph Hill, so named from the small castellated building which some years ago was erected on its summit, and intended for a signal tower. This fanciful structure has recently been repaired by Robert Warren, Esq., and, therefore, presents a pleasing but still imposing appearance, as several guns protrude from the sides of its embattled summit. After indulging in the pleasure of the magnificent prospect which this elevation affords of the widely spreading bay; and of the numerous and picturesque seats which line its curving shore, the tourist may pass by a convenient path, amid the young plantations which rise above the summit of the mountain, until he arrives at the Obelisk Hill, the highest point of the celebrated Killiney range. It is only when he reaches this commanding elevation that the visitor has arrived at the point from which he may be said to be enabled to luxuriate in the full and perfect enjoyment of the combination of natural beauties, which fall under observation when viewed from this enviable spot. Before him lies, in calm and unruffled tranquillity, the magnificent Killiney Bay, over which, in the serenity of the glorious summer's evening, numerous light and fairy-like skiffs may be seen to glide, the glossy surface of its pellucid bosom being scarcely disturbed by the striking of the delicate oars by which they are propelled; while stealing, as it were, from beneath the land, and with a quiet but marvellous celerity cleaving her way through the still and placid waters, appears the stately steamer, on her voyage from Dublin to Cork, the crested foam thrown up from her paddles glistening in the beams of the evening sun, and exhibiting a clear and silvery brightness. While thus dwelling on the objects which present themselves on the broad bosom of the finely curving bay, the delighted beholder may immediately revel amid the varied beauties of the sublime scenes by which on the land side he is environed. From this commanding elevation the naked crags, and conical summits of the Sugar-loaves,

with the picturesque Wicklow mountains, may be swept in a single glance, from Bray Head on the south, to Sugduff on the west; while on the north, the bright landscape, comprising the splendid demesnes in the environs of Dublin, with Lambay, Ireland's Eye, and Howth, in the distance, greatly enrich and diversify the magnificent prospect. The small island of Dalkey appears to great advantage from this height, and in another locality would be deemed an invaluable appendage. This island gem, with its battery on the south-eastern verge, the chapel ruin on the west, and in its vicinity the Muglins, and Maiden rocks, forms a very perfect and pleasing picture. Indeed nothing with which I am acquainted can exceed the diversity and completeness of the view which can be obtained from the summit of this hill. All that can minister to the most fastidious and delicate craving for novelty, whether as regards the barren mountain, or the finely cultivated plain, the richly clothed wood, or the dark and shaded valley, here presents itself; while the radiant glories of the azure bay, in which is mirrored the dark outline of the Bray promontory, leave no room for the indulgence of an additional or ungratified wish. Immediately north-west of the obelisk—a pillar which was erected about a century ago by some humane philanthropists, for the purpose of affording employment to the poor people of the neighbourhood in a season of distress—is situated the beautiful seat of Robert Warren, Esq., the owner of the property, of which Killiney forms a portion, whose liberality in permitting the public to visit this interesting place, and in providing tables and seats for their accommodation, entitles him to the thanks and gratitude of the innumerable visitors to this most attractive and delightful locality. A drinking fountain has also been erected near the obelisk, by this public spirited gentleman. This is a most desirable and invaluable adjunct to the other conveniences provided for dining, lunching, and otherwise regaling the numerous picnic parties that in the summer season resort to the hill.

At some distance north of the hill is situated the village of Killiney, and also that of Ballybrack, about half a mile from it on the west. At the latter village is a new and very handsome Roman Catholic church, constructed of the fine rich granite which so plentifully abounds in the neighbourhood. It is cruciform in plan, and in the Gothic style of architecture. At the extremity of a field immediately north of this church is the monument erected to the memory of George John Frederick, fourth Duke of Dorset, who accidentally lost his life on this spot while hunting, on the 14th of February, 1813, in the twenty-first year of his age. About a quarter of a mile from this place, in a small circular garden, at the rear of Mr. O'Hara's handsome seat, Druid Lodge, are situated a couple of antique curiosities, one of them being a stone chair, in a state of excellent preservation, although from its appearance it must be of remote antiquity. This remnant of a distant age is called the Druid's Chair.

At some distance from it is the other, supposed to have been an altar, where, according to a vague tradition, human sacrifices were offered by the Druids. The only appearance of an altar here at present are two stones of circular form, not unlike moderate-sized millstones. Each of these stones is perforated in the centre, and shows a hole, such as might be made by an auger of about an inch in diameter. These remains of a superstitious age are carefully preserved, and are considered very interesting memorials. At some distance south-west of Ballybrack is another ancient curiosity, which is one of the remnants of a very remote age, called cromlechs, supposed by some persons of research to be Druid altars, and by others the remains of heathen tombs. It is situated at Shanganah, at a short distance from the place where stand the remains of the ancient castle, formerly the stronghold of the family of Walsh.

CHAPTER II.

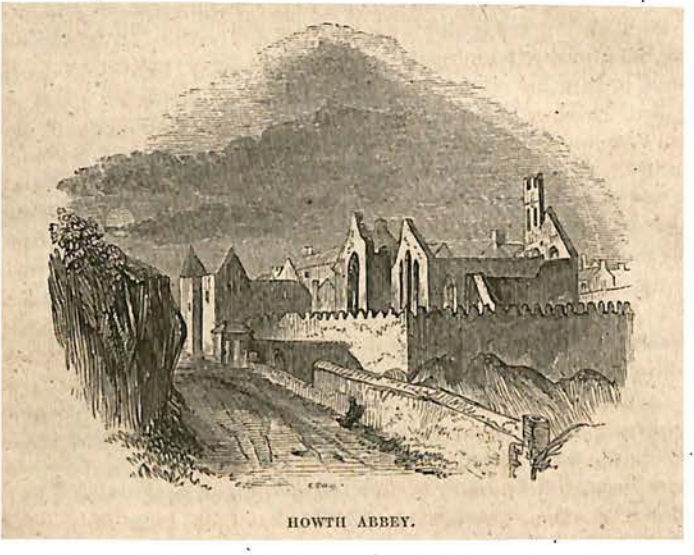
HOWTH, MALAHIDE, SKERRIES, AND BALBRIGGAN.

HAVING indulged in the pleasure arising from a day spent at Kingstown, Dalkey, Killiney, and the several interesting spots in the southern suburban environs of Dublin, the tourist who is desirous of making himself acquainted with the whole of the beauties of the renowned bay, and with the varied scenery which characterises it, will doubtless pay a visit to Howth, and the other small towns which lie north of the city, and to which the railway furnishes a speedy conveyance.

Howth, which is about nine miles from Dublin, is built on an elevation, and extends along the side of the lofty hill, formerly called *Ben-na-dair*, which in Irish signifies the "Hill of Oaks." It consists of one long street, containing some neat dwellings, and a spacious hotel, of modern erection. The political economist who visits this ancient place, will find ample cause for lamentation, when he considers the immense amount which was expended for the purpose of making the harbour available for a packet station; but which, instead of realising the expectations of its projectors, has now become so far choked and restricted as to be incapable of admitting even ordinary smacks and fishing-boats within it, except at high times of the tide. Here, as well as elsewhere along this coast, the insidious character of the shifting sands has baffled the skill of the most experienced and competent engineers, and so far affords convincing evidence of the necessity of exercising the utmost amount of caution in dealing with localities where such natural obstructions exist.

The new harbour, which has proved to be so signal a failure, was constructed at an expense of £500,000, and consists of two piers, one of which extends over 1,500 feet in a direct line from the shore, and is continued in an obtusely angular direction 990 feet farther to the north-west; while the other extends more than 2,000 feet to the north-east, to meet the return of the former, leaving an opening of 320 feet as an entrance to the harbour, which comprises an area of 52 statute acres. On an elevation south of the harbour, and about the centre of the town, are situated the venerable remains of Howth Abbey, within the ancient churchyard, which is still used as a burial ground. These ruins consist of two piles of buildings, called the

Abbey and the College. The former, which appears to have been a church, has a lofty circular doorway at the west end, surmounted by a belfry, which is ascended by a staircase on the outside. The nave or body of the church, 93 feet in length, by 52 in breadth, is divided into two aisles, of unequal length, by a range of six pointed arches. Of these three are of smaller size than the rest, and appear to be of more recent erection than the walls of the building in general. Each of the aisles has an eastern window, and had a separate roof,



HOWTH ABBEY.

the gables of which are still standing. At the west-end of the south aisle is situated the tower, with a doorway on the south side, before which there was formerly a porch.

The College, on the south side of the enclosure, consists of the hall, the kitchen, and some half-dozen cells. Among the monuments to be seen here, is one to the memory of Christopher, the thirteenth Baron of Howth, and his lady, in marble, whose effigies are still entire. It was erected in 1430, and exhibits sculptural emblems of the crucifixion and of the family arms. The bells of this ancient abbey, discovered in the vaults of the castle, where they had lain for some 200 years, are now carefully preserved in the hall. To the west of the castle are the ruins of a small chapel or oratory, with a bell-turret over the entrance. This little fane, one of the smallest ecclesiastical structures to be seen in this country, was dedicated to St. Fenton. At a short distance west of the abbey ruins is the Catholic church, a handsome structure, erected within the last forty years. Adjoining it is a school, in connection with the National Board of Education. The Protestant church, a very neat edifice, stands on an eminence near the entrance to the town.

Proceeding in a southerly direction from the ruins of the ancient abbey, and along the well-constructed road, the tourist will arrive at the highest parts of the hill, which are nearly 580 feet above the level of the sea. At the eastern extremity of these heights, to which the road leads, is the old lighthouse, for some years disused, as, from its great elevation, it was liable to be obscured by the mists which not unfrequently enveloped the summit of the hill. In the splendid views which can be obtained from this and the neighbouring heights, are included the varied and picturesque mountains of Dublin and Wicklow on the south and west, and on the north the far-off mountains of Mourne, which, at a distance of forty miles, appear as if stretching into the sea. More immediately off the coast are seen the islands of Lambay and Ireland's Eye, both in our day rendered objects of painful interest; the former, by the disastrous and melancholy shipwreck, accompanied by a fearful loss of life, which a few years ago occurred at its side; and the other by the atrocious and deliberate act of violence and murder, whereby a helpless and confiding wife became the innocent victim of her brutal and cowardly husband, who, instead of being her protector and defender, became her base betrayer, luring her to the lonely shore of the desolate island, when he barbarously deprived her of life. Ireland's Eye, the scene of this terrible tragedy, which is directly opposite the new Howth harbour, and about a mile from the shore, is a very picturesque object as seen from this place. An abbey was founded here by St. Nessan, in the year 570. The remains of the church built by this holy man are still to be seen on the western shore. Immediately south of this eminence, and upwards of 400 feet beneath it, on the summit of a small rock, which, from its fresh and verdant appearance, is called the Green Bailey, has been erected the new lighthouse, that rises 100 feet above the level of the sea, and displays a bright and fixed light, with reflectors. It is visible at a distance of seventeen nautical miles. In the month of February, 1853, this was the scene of the melancholy loss of the *Queen Victoria* steamer, on which occasion fifty-five human beings perished within a comparatively short distance of the Lighthouse Point. The abrupt and almost isolated rock on which the new lighthouse stands, marks the site of a fort, said to have been occupied so early as the beginning of the first century by Crimthan, King of Ireland, who, according to the annalists, died here in the ninth year of our Lord, after returning from a successful expedition, in which he obtained spoils equally rare and valuable. Notwithstanding the interest I felt, and the pains I have taken to render myself familiar with the prominent beauties of Dublin, and its envied environs, I should have lost the greatest treat which this magnificent locality holds out to the curious visitor, had not circumstances favoured me in an almost especial manner, by enabling me to obtain a view of the city and the bay from the bay itself. On the several occasions upon which I crossed from Dublin to Liverpool, to Holyhead and back, I either passed over by night, or

at an early hour of the morning, and was therefore deprived of my long-wished-for pleasure. On a recent visit to England, however, I left Kingstown for Holyhead, by the steam-packet, *Prince Arthur*, at the hour of one o'clock at noon, in the middle of July. The day being beautifully fine, clear, and bright, presented such an opportunity as could not be exceeded for seeing to the fullest advantage the numerous and splendid views which here present themselves. I dare not attempt to describe the delightful scene which breaks upon the view of the beholder as he takes his departure from Kingstown harbour, and which, as the speedy vessel increases her distance, seems to increase in beauty in a like proportion. The public buildings, with their cupolas, steeples, and spires, and the various mansions and villas of the city and its rich environs, rising, as it would seem, within a splendid amphitheatre, and glistening in the mid-day sun, present to the view a sight which, for brilliancy and grandeur, cannot be surpassed. As the distance becomes increased, the picture appears more concentrated, displaying an outline of a semicircular form, its ample curve extending from Dalkey Head on the south, to the conical Sugarloaves on the west, and resting on the projecting Bailey at the southern extremity of Howth on the north; which promontory, together with Ireland's Eye, and the verdant island of Lambay, becomes clearly defined and open to the view. This, indeed, is a picture which, when once seen, cannot easily be forgotten, and which requires powers of perception, as well as powers of description, such as rarely fall to the lot of ordinary men, adequately to portray. On a subject so absorbingly interesting, it would therefore be useless to dilate; for even the most accurate and graphic description would convey but an imperfect notion of the superlative reality. To be properly understood and fully appreciated, it is necessary that it should be seen.

Howth is much frequented in the summer season by the citizens of Dublin, who, in addition to the pleasure they derive from wandering over its heights, and through its romantic glens, occasionally indulge in the gratification of sailing upon the bay by which it is margined, and visiting the islands that lie off its shore. For the latter purpose boats are always in attendance, manned by some of the hardy and experienced fishermen, who compose the majority of the inhabitants. A Martello tower, similar to those which line the southern shore of the bay from Dublin to Kingstown, stands on an eminence above the harbour. Regattas occasionally take place at Howth and Baldcyle in summer, and are well and fashionably attended. Another source of attraction to Howth, is the opening of the beautiful grounds of Howth Castle to the public, which is considered a great boon by the citizens of Dublin. This favour is duly notified to the public through the medium of the metropolitan press; and, as one of the military bands from the city is in attendance on such occasions, return tickets to Howth and back are in great requisition at the railway station, and a large array of rank and fashion testify, by their presence, how highly

they appreciate the liberality of the noble proprietor. The Earl of Howth ranks amongst the most ancient of the nobility of this country. In attestation of this, we find by historical records that his progenitor, Sir Amorey Tristram, and Sir John de Courcy, in the year 1177, landed here, and defeated the Danish inhabitants in a fierce encounter, which took place at the bridge of Evora, which crossed a mountain stream that falls into the sea near the Bailey lighthouse. This victory, we are informed, secured to Sir Amorey the lordship of Howth, in which his descendants have continued till this day. The family name of Tristram was laid aside, and that of St. Laurence adopted by Almaric, the third baron, in fulfilment of a vow made previously to his victory over the Danes at Clontarf, in a battle fought on the festival of that saint. We find also that the territory of Howth was confirmed to Almaric de St. Laurence by King John. In 1534, Lord Thomas Fitzgerald planted his cannon on the hill of Howth, to prevent the ships which conveyed forces to reduce him to submission from entering the bay of Dublin.

In 1575, according to the accounts furnished in reference to this place, Grace O'Malley, the heiress of a Connaught chieftain, whose boldness and intrepidity invested her with the character of a heroine, and who was better known under the name of Grana Uile, or Granuwail, on her return from a visit paid by her to Queen Elizabeth, landed at Howth, and proceeded to the castle. But feeling indignant at finding the gates closed, as was the custom of the family during the hour of dinner, she, on her departure, seized the young heir of St. Laurence, then at nurse near the seashore, and carried him a prisoner to her castle in Mayo, whence, after much negociation, he was released, on the condition that the sacred rights of hospitality should not in future be outraged by the house of St. Laurence; and that, when the family thereafter were at dinner, the gates of the castle should be thrown open, and a cover laid for any stranger who might arrive. This custom, we are informed, was adhered to so late as in the lifetime of the first earl. Howth Castle is considered one of the finest, as it is perhaps one of the most interesting, baronial residences in Ireland.

It displays a long battlemented front, flanked by a square tower on each extremity, and approached by a large flight of steps, of comparatively modern appearance. The spacious hall extends along the whole front of the building, within which are several ancient relics, and among the rest the two-handed sword used by the first English proprietor, Sir Amorey Tristram, already mentioned, in his defeat of the Danes. The bells of the ancient abbey church are also carefully preserved in the hall. In a chamber, to which a flight of steps leads from the hall, is a painting of the abduction of the young heir by Grace O'Malley. The bed in which King William III. slept when he visited the castle during his sojourn in Ireland is still preserved, and appears in the same state as when used by him. The original castle

of Howth, now a ruin, is situated on another part of the demesne. The demesne and pleasure-grounds, enriched with fine plantations, are very beautiful; and on the occasions upon which they are thrown open to the public are largely and fashionably attended. The present proprietor is the twenty-eighth baron and third earl of Howth. The peninsula of Howth, containing about 1,700 statute acres, is the exclusive property of the earl, in whose family, as we have seen, it has continued since the arrival of the first English adventurers. Ireland's Eye, so frequently alluded to, is an appendage to his lordship's estate. It is nearly half a mile in length, considerably over a mile in circumference, and affords good pasturage for cattle.

The next object of attraction in the neighbourhood of Dublin is Malahide, which, since the opening of the Dublin and Drogheda line of railway, has become a place of popular and fashionable resort. It is situated eight miles from the metropolis, on a shallow creek or inlet of the sea, between Lambay Island on the north, and Ireland's Eye and the Hill of Howth on the south. The inlet or harbour stretches some four miles north from Howth, and extends about the same distance inland, so that the town presents a sequestered and pleasing appearance. The harbour becomes nearly dry at low water, having at such times but a single foot at its entrance; but at high tide, vessels drawing over 10 feet of water can enter it, and lie afloat in the channel. The trade to Malahide is comparatively limited, and consists chiefly in the importation of coal; some advantages, however, are derived by the inhabitants from the fishery off the coast. The manufacture of cotton, which was introduced during the last century by Colonel Talbot, grandfather to the present proprietor, has long since declined; although the Irish parliament, at his instance, granted £2,000 for the purpose of providing the requisite machinery. Lord Talbot de Malahide, who has been lately raised to the dignity of a British peerage, under the above ancient and hereditary title, takes a great interest in the town; and, together with James Fagan, Esq., has been mainly instrumental in carrying out the improvements which have recently taken place there. Among these improvements is a very large and fine hotel, which has been got up in superior style, having commodious baths in connection with it, and apartments for the accommodation of private families. Some neat and ornamental terraces have been laid out here, and elegant houses erected upon them. St. James's Terrace is on a scale worthy of Kingstown. Before the line of handsome houses, and between them and the magnificent hotel, a very fine square has been enclosed and richly planted, the intersecting and surrounding walks being ornamented with the most rare and beautiful shrubs and flowers that can be propagated in an outdoor situation. The occupiers of the terrace houses, and the visitors to the hotel, are allowed access to this healthful and agreeable place. The Castle Terrace is in the part of the town that leads directly to Malahide Castle, which is the constant residence of the

noble proprietor, and immediately opposite the handsome Catholic church, and the station-house of the railway. Here also are some very fine houses, which are occupied by respectable families. The church just mentioned is a very good house of worship, in the early Gothic style of architecture, the doors and windows being of tall, slender, and pointed character. In the basement storey beneath the floor of the church, which is built on a slight acclivity, there is a school for boys; and one for girls immediately adjoining it on the south. In the centre of the low street, in the rear of the church, is the ancient well of Malahide, over which an arch, surmounted by a small pillar, has been raised. The door by which access is afforded to it is generally locked; and its water, which in former times was so celebrated for its healing properties, thereby preserved from contamination or impurity. A row of nice terrace villas has likewise been erected in Church Street, the areas in front of them being enclosed within neat iron railing. The Protestant church, which is situated in this vicinity, within a neat, small churchyard, where interments still take place, is a handsome structure of moderate dimensions. It is of some thirty years' standing, and is in the Gothic style, with an attached tower. The east window, which is of two mullions, is enriched with stained glass, and, like the side windows, is of the style called Middle Point. The door is in the north side of the ivy-clad tower, the coating of which, for so modern a building, is very luxuriant.

MALAHIDE CASTLE.

The Castle of Malahide, a venerable structure erected by the direct ancestor of the present noble proprietor, so early as the reign of Henry II., is finely situated upon a gentle elevation, about half a mile from the town. This building, which is of quadrangular shape, has been much improved and enlarged by the late Lord Talbot de

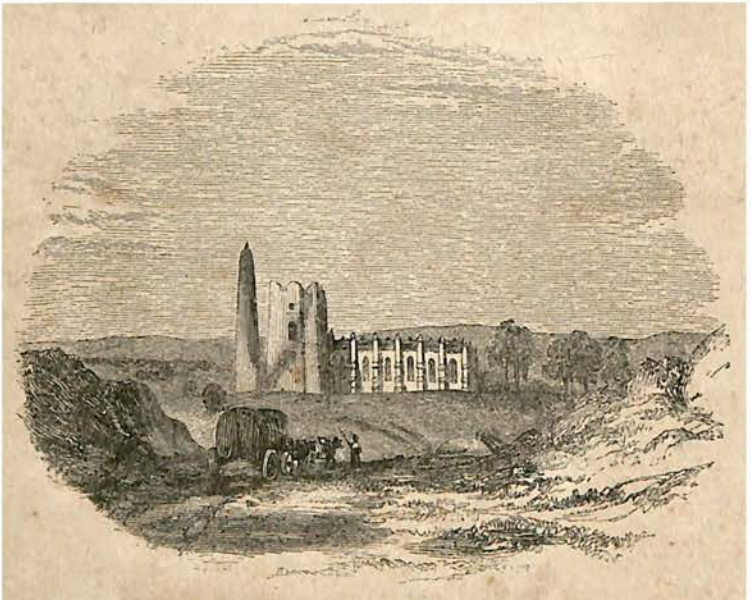
Malahide. The principal front displays embattled ornaments, and is flanked on each extremity by a strong and large circular tower. The interior of this ancient castle is perfectly in keeping with its interesting exterior, and, in many respects, is second to no building of the kind in Ireland. Among the most striking of the several apartments is the grand hall, a spacious and lofty saloon, with a vaulted roof of oak timber, which, from its great age, has acquired a peculiarly rich and venerable appearance. It has a gallery at the south end, and is lighted by three large and elegant windows. The chamber called the oak-room is a splendid apartment, of great age and still greater beauty, and is wainscoted and ceiled with richly carved native oak. Here are several objects of great interest, consisting of elaborately carved subjects taken from sacred history, which appear within the wainscoted compartments of Gothic character, some of them being exquisitely executed. The chimney-piece, for instance, which displays in its central divisions figures of the Virgin and Child, is a rare and singularly beautiful specimen of the carver's art. In several of the apartments are to be seen valuable paintings, specimens of the most celebrated masters of the Italian and Flemish schools.

The demesne is of considerable extent, and studded with groups of stately trees and rich plantations, while the gardens are tastefully laid out, and kept in excellent order; in fact, the hand of care and skill is quite perceptible in everything within and about the castle. The ancient church, which is situated near the castle, is an interesting ruin, consisting of a nave and choir, separated from each other by a lofty, pointed arch, which rises nearly in the centre of the building. The east window, of large dimensions, was enriched with fine tracery; another handsome window appears in the western end, above which rises the belfry, thickly coated with ivy. In this church, the ruins of which are now shaded with fine chestnut-trees, whose luxuriant branches overhang the roofless walls, have been interred, from time immemorial, the remains of the proprietors of the castle and their families. Of the ancient monuments there is but one now remaining, which is an altar-tomb of the fifteenth century, bearing the effigy of Lady Matilda Plunket, wife of Richard Talbot. Referring to authority, we find that the manor and castle were granted, in 1174, by Henry II. to Richard Talbot, the ancestor of the Lords of Malahide, who accompanied that monarch to Ireland; and have continued in the possession of his descendants, with but a slight interruption, to the present time. This interruption was occasioned by Oliver Cromwell, who during the parliamentary war besieged the castle, and made it his residence for some time. While here, he passed sentence of outlawry upon Thomas, Lord Talbot, and gave the castle and manor to Miles Corbet, one of his officers, who retained possession of them for seven years. On the Restoration, however, the Talbot family regained the possession of their estates. Malahide Castle and grounds, like those of Howth, are occasionally thrown open to the public.

On such occasions a military band from the city is in attendance, and Malahide becomes a gay and fashionable place. The town is much frequented in the summer season, on account of the excellent accommodation it affords for bathing.

While in this neighbourhood, the tourist should avail himself of the opportunity afforded him of visiting Swords, which is scarcely three statute miles from Malahide, whereas it is more than seven from Dublin. This small town, which in former days was a place of some importance, as its wide and open street, and the ruins of its public buildings testify, is favourably situated on the banks of a small but rapid river, which empties itself into the inner extremity of the creek of Malahide. This creek is navigable to within a mile of the town for boats and lighters. We find that so early as the year 512, a monastery was founded here by St. Columkill, who appointed St. Finan its first abbot, and presented it, at the same time, with a missal written by himself. This monastery long continued to increase in reputation and distinction, and the town, in consequence, rose in the like proportion to such magnitude, that additional places of worship were erected, among which were chapels dedicated to St. Finan and St. Bridget; near the latter of which, we are told, was the ancient cross, called "Pardon Crosse." Swords, like many of the towns which contained important monasteries and religious establishments, was repeatedly plundered and burned by the Danes. But notwithstanding these repeated injuries, it still retained so much of its former importance, as to be considered worthy to form a resting-place for the bodies of Brian Boro', his son, and grandson, who fell in the memorable and victorious battle of Clontarf; and whose remains were conveyed thither by the brethren of the monastery, and deposited for one night in the abbey, previously to their removal on their way to the cathedral of Armagh, their final resting-place. The ruins of the ancient castle or palace of the archbishop, situated in the north-eastern part of the town, and consisting at present of the massive boundary wall, flanked on each angle by a strong tower, afford evidence of the extent and importance of this once formidable and interesting pile. The area which formed the site of the castle, enclosed within the boundary wall, comprises over an acre of ground, and has been converted into a garden. North-east of these ruins has been erected a new National school, which presents a pretty appearance; and in its vicinity is situated the residence of the parish priest. The Round Tower, the most remarkable remnant of antiquity now to be seen in Swords, stands within the churchyard, the popular burial-ground of the neighbourhood, which is situated on an elevation west of the town. This tower is of plainer construction than some of the same character which come under the notice of the traveller in this country. It is 73 feet in height, and 55 feet in circumference at the base, and is in excellent preservation. Unlike many of these ancient structures, the exterior of this one is plastered; but whether this improvement was the work of its original

constructors, or of those of more modern times, cannot at present be ascertained. Perhaps, like the cross which stands on the apex of its conical roof, it may be looked upon as a memento of the solicitude and anxiety of the pious brethren of the abbey to preserve what was, even in their time, an interesting memorial of antiquity, as well as to convert it to religious uses. Whether this antique monument was erected previously to the introduction of Christianity into this country, admits of some doubt. The cross, however, by which it is surmounted, appears to be as rude, and fully as ancient, as the building



ROUND TOWER OF SWORDS.

from which it springs. The four apertures, or windows, near the summit, and immediately beneath the conical roof, face the cardinal points, and are rounded on the top; they are somewhat larger than those of the same description which characterise these towers in general.

There are four smaller apertures, of oblong form, at different stages, and on different sides of the tower. The doorway, seemingly about 4 feet in height, and decreasing gradually in width as it approaches the top, which is square, is about 24 feet from the ground, and, consequently, could not be entered without the assistance of a ladder. Another ancient structure, that serves as a bell-tower or steeple to the adjoining church, is a venerable and interesting object. It is not so high as the Round Tower, which stands about 100 feet from it on the north-west, nor of such long standing; although, to an ordinary observer, it would appear to be fully as old. It is a square,

castellated building, and was attached to the former church; but the present church has been erected at a short distance from it on the south. Like its circular neighbour, the external walls have been plastered, and, like it also, are in good preservation. A well-toned bell has been placed in the third storey of this tower, to which there is access by winding stairs.

The Protestant church, which was erected by Mr. Johnson, of Dublin, a few yards south of the old tower or steeple, consists of a choir only; and like the chapel, built by the same architect, in the castle-yard at Dublin, is very beautiful. In its general appearance it bears some resemblance to that magnificent structure; but it is scarcely necessary to say, that it is by no means so richly decorated. The material of which it is composed is the same, being calpe, or Irish black stone. A fine window of stained glass, executed by Mr. Braddely, of Dublin, was presented by a former rector to this church. The Catholic church, a neat edifice of modern erection, is situated at a short distance east of the centre of the main street. It is an excellent house of worship, and is enriched with a nice tower and spire. Opposite the entrance to this church is the hotel, kept by the Early family, an old and respectable establishment. South-west of the Protestant church and the Rectory House, is situated what was once the celebrated Well of Swords, which, according to tradition, was blessed and dedicated to the Holy Virgin, by St. Columkill, in the early part of the sixth century. It is now utterly neglected, and stagnant with accumulated mud and dank noxious weeds; in fact, it may with truth be said, that "things rank and gross in nature possess it merely." In this part of the town there is a neat infant school. It has been said, that the first parliament which assembled in Ireland was convened to meet in the Abbey of Swords, which abbey was afterwards castellated and strengthened for defensive purposes. In attestation of this fact, it has been stated that a conflagration took place while the parliament was sitting, and that the marks of fire upon the walls were, even to a late period, visible. A second conflagration is said to have taken place, at the time the castle was besieged by Oliver Cromwell. There are some handsome seats in this neighbourhood.

While sojourning in Dublin, the tourist, availing himself of an early train starting from the station of the Drogheda line of railway, will have an excellent opportunity of visiting the small towns which lie north of Swords. Among these the little seaport and fishing-town of Skerries is entitled to his special notice, from its being one of the first places mentioned in connection with the arrival of St. Patrick in his apostolic capacity. It comprises an area of about 80 acres, with a population approaching to 2,500 inhabitants, and is a fine open healthful place, consisting of one long principal street, the houses of which, in many instances, are somewhat detached from each other, with a group of dwellings in the immediate vicinity of the harbour,

and others which extend on the north-western extremity of it. In the south end of the town is situated a handsome terrace, furnished with neat cottages, some of which are occupied by respectable resident families, and the remainder let in the summer season to visitors who resort here for the advantage of sea-bathing, for which its fine sandy beach renders it exceedingly favourable. The Protestant church is a plain structure, with a corresponding pinnacled tower. The Catholic church, which is situated in the centre of the town, is a commodious uniform edifice, with an ornamental cross on the apex of the chancel, and a belfry on the end of the nave. The islands lying off the shore, and known as the Skerry Islands, invest the locality with more than an ordinary degree of interest, and confer upon it a pleasing and picturesque diversity. Besides these, which bear the following denominations,—Red Island, Colt Island, St. Patrick's Island, and Shenex Island—there is a granite rock, situated north-east of them, two distinct portions of which rise high above the sea. Upon this rock, which is designated Rockabill, and from its peculiar appearance is also called the Cow and Calf, has been erected, within the last six or seven years, a lighthouse, which displays a bright flashing light. Red Island, the most western of the group, and the nearest to the shore, is connected with the mainland by a causeway, which, together with a pier on the north, forms the harbour.

In 1775, we find, a grant was made by the Irish parliament of £2,000 for the construction of this pier; and, in 1787, a further sum of £1,500 was granted for the same purpose. In subsequent years, however, owing to the damage sustained from repeated storms, the proprietor of the town, Hans Hamilton, Esq., repaired it at his own expense. It is now considered one of the best harbours on this part of the coast, and affords safety and shelter for moderately-sized vessels during the prevalence of the most dangerous winds. In the channel which runs inside of St. Patrick's Island, there are from three to four fathoms water; but that part of it between Red Island and Colt Island is only safe and suitable for boats. The portion of the beach that lies between Shenex Island (which is the most southern, as well as the largest of the Skerry Islands,) and the flat shore, is dry at low water. At such time of tide this green island, which comprises about 15 acres, may be visited with safety; but care must be taken to leave it at the proper time, as the tide, when it begins to flow, rises with great rapidity. A Martello tower has been erected on this island, and a similar defensive structure has been built on Red Island, where there is also a station for coastguards.

Innis Patrick, or St. Patrick's Island, so called from being the first spot of ground upon which that illustrious saint was supposed to have set his foot when he arrived to carry out his great mission, is the farthest from the shore, being about a mile distant from it. It is also called Church Island, from the church that was early erected upon it, the ancient remains of which are still to be seen. We find it

recorded, that at the close of the ninth century, Sitric Mac Murchad founded a monastery on this island, in which Moel Finian, Prince of Bregü, dwelt as monk, and subsequently ruled as abbot. There are but few historical reminiscences connected with Skerries; the only one of importance with which I am acquainted, besides the interesting tradition relative to the blessed St. Patrick, before alluded to, is the circumstance of Sir Henry Sidney, when Lord Deputy of Ireland, having landed here in the year 1575. Schools, under the National Board, have been established here.

The more important, but, when I paid my visit, not more flourishing town of Balbriggan, is situated on this coast, about eighteen miles from Dublin. It may be said to owe its rise from a small fishing village, to what, some years since, might be considered a place of manufacturing, and, to some extent, commercial consequence, to the influence and energy of the late Baron Hamilton, the owner of the property on which it stands. In the year 1780 he introduced the cotton manufacture, for which he erected an extensive factory, and for many years this branch of industry continued to flourish in the town,—the hosiery department, especially, having rendered the place justly celebrated by its acknowledged superiority. In 1763, with the aid of a parliamentary grant, he caused an excellent pier to be built, calculated to afford safety to vessels of moderate size. This pier extends to a considerable distance into the sea, in a north-easterly direction, with an extensive curving arm, which runs towards the north-west. There is a light-house at the end of the pier, 35 feet above high-water mark, showing a fixed light, which can be seen at a distance of nearly ten miles on a clear night. A second pier was commenced in 1826, and finished in 1829, at an expense of about £3,000, of which the late fishery board contributed £1,570; the Marquis of Lansdowne, £100; and the proprietor of the town, the late Rev. George Hamilton, the remainder. The second or north pier extends to a distance of 420 feet, on a line parallel with the old and more extensive pier, with a curve of 105 feet, which stretches in a southerly direction, leaving a sufficient, but, apparently, limited entrance to the harbour. The entrance is sheltered by the ample curve of the old pier, under the protection of which vessels of 150 tons were wont to enter with safety, and found a good roadstead, at three-quarters tide, in the outer harbour; while within the inner one they were perfectly secured against all winds, with 14 feet of water at high tide. With such advantages, anticipations of a hopeful and prosperous future were generally entertained by those who felt an interest in the welfare of the town, and for several years their reasonable expectations were realised. The cotton manufacture continued to flourish, and machinery, worked by steam as well as by water power, kept in motion as many as 7,500 spindles; while more than 7,000 lbs. of cotton yarn were the weekly average of the spinning. Over 300 persons were wont to be employed in these works; and upwards of 900 hand-looms were employed in weaving checks, jeans,

calicoes, and fustians: about 40 cotton frames were constantly kept at work in the manufacture of stockings. Besides these works, muslin embroidery had also been introduced, so that the people, including a large portion of the females, were constantly employed. The fishery afforded employment to a considerable number of the men; while the general commerce of the port, which was chiefly confined to the coasting trade, was productive of paramount advantages. This state of things, however, was too flattering and too gratifying to be of long and permanent duration; and accordingly we find, with deep regret, that its manufactures were at this time almost annihilated, having shared the fate of most things of the same kind which enterprise and public spirit had endeavoured to establish in this part of Ireland. In fact, all the speculations connected with the manufacture of cotton, as well as flax, have been absorbed in the centralisation system, of which, in this country, Belfast is the great emporium. The extensive factory, erected at the instance of the good Baron Hamilton, has been converted into a flour mill, and the people who found employment within it are scattered and gone elsewhere. With the exception of a comparatively small number of looms and frames which are worked in private houses, and are chiefly occupied in the manufacture of stockings, which still retain their wonted celebrity, the trade of the town may be said to have become extinct. The commerce of the port has retrograded in a like proportion; and for want of that provident care so essential to local prosperity, the entrance to the harbour has, for some years, been gradually becoming so confined and choked, that vessels of the class which formerly found harbourage there, are now barred from obtaining access to it. Such was the prostrate state of the town when I paid my visit to it in the autumn of 1856. It is exceedingly gratifying to find, however, that a change for the better has latterly been evincing itself, and that the gloom which hung over the manufacturing interests has been partially superseded by a dawning prosperity. A new mill has been established here within the last eighteen months, which has given a considerable impulse to the manufactures of the town; and while passing through it in the month of June, 1862, I heard, with much pleasure, that the fishery off the shore had of late become comparatively remunerative. That the Balbriggan hosiery continues to maintain its wonted character for excellence, is rendered manifest by the fact that the Messrs. Smith and Company, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin, who afford extensive employment to the manufacturers of this description of goods, have obtained the prize, for the superiority of their hosiery, at the great International Exhibition.

Many of the houses are neat and well-built, being constructed with a view to be let for the accommodation of bathers in the summer season. There are also a few good shops, and a hotel, in the central part of the town. The market-house, which is in a more detached situation, was closed up, and apparently unused, when I paid my visit.

The market is held on Saturday, and there are four fairs in the year. The buildings appropriated to public uses are—a dispensary, a neat sessions-house, and a constabulary barrack,—a handsome house in the Elizabethan style. On the seashore, near the harbour, is a Martello tower, and in its vicinity a coastguard station. The Protestant church is finely situated on a gentle elevation, and is a very handsome structure, with a neat pinnacled tower, from which springs a light and graceful spire. The Catholic church, which is situated on a still greater elevation, is a new and substantial edifice, with a turret at each angle, and buttresses on each side, between which are two windows of lancet shape, that in the upper being much higher than its fellow in the lower range. On each side of the principal entrance, in the centre of the west front, rises a strong pilaster, above which is a handsome Gothic window of three lights. The finely-groined ceiling of the church is very lofty, indeed, I have reason to believe too much so, as the voice of the preacher is, to a great extent, drowned in the echo which it produces, and is therefore rendered difficult of being distinctly heard by the congregation. Schools, under the National Board of Education, have been established here; and one of earlier foundation, which is under the direction of the Protestant rector. Hampton Hall, the residence of the Right Honourable George A. Hamilton, is handsomely situated at a short distance from the town. The mansion, a large courtly building, with a lofty porch before the grand entrance, supported by four columns of the Corinthian order, stands near the north-western extremity of the demesne, which comprises upwards of 500 acres, and is approached by a spacious avenue, with three separate entrances, at which are characteristic gate-lodges. The pleasure-grounds and gardens are situated north-west of the mansion, and are bounded on two of their sides by a river, spanned by a rustic bridge, which, as it flows through the lawn west of the house, adds considerably to the beauty of the landscape. Specimens of rare and beauteous trees are to be seen in these grounds, among which is a remarkably fine laurel, the overhanging branches of which cover an area of some 42 feet in diameter; and also a magnificent cedar, the equal of which is not to be seen in this country, nor, perhaps, in England, with the exception of the splendid and highly-prized cedars which enrich and ornament the pleasure-grounds of Warwick Castle, the grand seat of the Earl of Warwick. Rare and curious specimens of rock and shell-work are to be seen in these grounds. In the principal rooms of the mansion are choice paintings, some of them family portraits. Among the latter is one of the grandfather of the present proprietor, Baron Hamilton, who is represented, in his judicial robes, as one of the judges of the Court of Exchequer. This Right Honourable and learned personage was the last Chancellor of the Irish Exchequer. In this collection are some picturesque views of mountain scenery in Wales, including the towering and lofty Snowdon.

CHAPTER III.

MAYNOOTH, AND OTHER SMALL TOWNS ON THE RIVER LIFFEY.

HAVING visited the most remarkable places north and south of the metropolis, the tourist, taking advantage of the other lines of railway, can with perfect convenience render himself familiar with the small towns, and interesting seats, which lie in a westerly direction. One of the most important of these places is Maynooth, which, on account of the Roman Catholic college, the splendid ruins, and the beautiful Carton, the magnificent seat of his Grace the Duke of Leinster, has more than ordinary attractions for the scholar, the antiquarian, and the lover of the sublime and beautiful in architecture, and in the refined art of landscape and ornamental gardening.

Arriving at this seat of modern learning and science, the visitor will experience much gratification on beholding the improved and pleasing appearance which it presents. The town may be said to consist of one long and wide street, one end of which leads to the college, and the other to the fine demesne of Ireland's only duke. It is nicely situated on the banks of the small river called the Rye Water, which, after turning a mill on the north side of the bridge by which it is here crossed, flows downwards to the grounds of Carton. There are a sessions-house and dispensary in the centre of the town, and a market-house, with a handsome fountain in front of it, together with a comfortable hotel, and a few good shops. The Catholic church, a fine cruciform structure of recent erection, is situated north of the river already mentioned, and at a short distance from it is the neat residence of the parish priest, the Rev. Father Kernan.

The fresh and pleasing appearance of this small town is considerably enhanced by the magnificent ancient and modern buildings of which it can boast, and by which it is enriched and beautified. These consist of the splendid ruins of the celebrated castle, and of the remains of the ancient church; and also of the comparatively new, and recently enlarged and improved, Roman Catholic College of St. Patrick. The last-mentioned institution shows its rich and ample front to the town, being situated at the western extremity of its fine open street, of nearly a quarter of a mile in extent. The handsome lawn in front of the college is entered by a capacious gateway, which is decorated with lions, sphinxes, and ornamental urns; and is enriched with fine plantations, some of the trees being of great size and beauty.

The noble entrance is flanked on the south by the hoary remains of the ancient chapel, which consists of a castellated structure, to which is attached the Protestant church, which occupies the site of its venerable predecessor, and on the north by the great keep of the grand castle.

The magnificent ruins of this great stronghold, with their surrounding iron railing, and their nicely kept interior, which has been laid out in ornamental flower-beds, present an air of hoary grandeur, which contrasts strikingly with the extensive modern seat of ecclesiastical learning.

The Most Noble the Marquis of Kildare takes a becoming interest in these ruins, and keeps a confidential person, who is constantly employed in removing all weeds and other impurities which are liable to accumulate, as well as in attending to the ornamental parterres. These famous ruins consist at present of the massive keep, which was defended by outworks of great magnitude.

Some of the towers which constituted the outer defences, including the gateway tower, are still in a state of comparative preservation; at least, sufficiently so as to convey to the mind a tolerable notion of the strength and potency of this once important fortress. The caretaker has orders to permit respectable strangers, at all reasonable times, to view and inspect the interior of the ruins.

This castle was built by Maurice Fitzgerald, to whom the manor of Maynooth was granted by Strongbow, in the year 1176. His son Gerald, the first baron of Offaly, obtained from John, Lord of Ireland, a new grant of Maynooth, and other extensive possessions. In 1284, the chapel of Maynooth was erected by Luke, Archbishop of Dublin, into a prebend of the Cathedral of St. Patrick, at the request of Maurice, Baron of Offaly. Gerald, Baron of Offaly, obtained a charter from Edward I. for holding a market here on every Friday, and a fair on the vigil, feast, and morrow of the Blessed Virgin, being the 7th, 8th, and 9th of September. In 1316, John, the first earl of Kildare, died at this castle. In 1328, Thomas, the second earl, died here; leaving the castle and a part of the manor to Johanna de Burgh, daughter of the Red Earl of Ulster, and grand-daughter to Hugh de Lacy. Her sister Ellen was married to Robert Bruce, King of Scotland. The castle, as it then stood, is thus described in "the Earl of Kildare's Red Book." It was built of stone, with numerous offices attached, with two gates, one leading to the town, and the other to the garden: the garden extended from the castle to the fosse, and to the river. The countess died in 1359; and in 1426, the castle was enlarged and partly rebuilt by John, sixth earl of Kildare, and was then considered one of the largest and richest earls' houses in Ireland. In 1488, after Lambert Simnel's rebellion, Sir Richard Edgecombe, comptroller of the household to Henry VII., who was sent over to this country to receive the oaths of allegiance of the nobility and principal citizens of Ireland, was invited by the earl to stop at

Maynooth, where he remained for three days. In 1521, licence was given to the earl to found a college at Maynooth, and on its erection, he placed over it a provost, vice-provost, five priests, two clerks, and three choristers, to pray for his soul and that of his wife. This was called the College of the Blessed Virgin. The chapel of the college was repaired in 1770, by James, Duke of Leinster, it having fallen into decay on the suppression of religious houses in 1538. It has since been used as the church of the parish, and with the ancient castellated tower, which stands on its western end, is an interesting feature.

The castle was rebuilt and enlarged by the Earl of Cork, the first of that title, in the year 1630, who was the guardian of George, the fifteenth earl, then a minor, and who afterwards married the daughter of the said Earl of Cork. The Earls of Kildare continued to occupy the castle till 1641, the breaking out of the rebellion. The Royal College of St. Patrick was first opened for students in 1795; and notwithstanding its comparatively limited extent, the numerous candidates for the ministry of the Catholic Church in this country were entirely dependent upon it for a collegiate education. Under the increased and well-advised government grant, however, which, owing to the enlightenment and liberality of the illustrious and lamented Sir Robert Peel, was made to this valuable establishment, considerable additions and improvements have taken place. Previously to these enlargements, the college afforded accommodation to somewhat less than 500 students, but it is at present capable of containing a much larger number. This fine institution as it now stands, having been recently remodelled, and, indeed, re-erected, from designs by the celebrated Pugin, forms three sides of a quadrangle, comprising various lecture-rooms, a refectory, a library, a chapel, and apartments for the president and the professors. It is entered in the centre of the extensive front, beneath a spacious and lofty arch, which is flanked by light and graceful towers, that, rising above the adjoining range of buildings, end in sharply pointed cones, from the summits of which spring elegant characteristic crosses. On the southern extremity of the entrance is situated the chapel, its handsome gabled front also rising above the adjoining range of building, and displaying on its apex a rich ornamental cross. On entering by the archway just mentioned, and passing through the vestibule, the visitor is first shown into the reception-room of the professors, and next into their dining-room, each of which is decorated with fine paintings. The chapel, which is in this part of the building, presents an imposing appearance, and is a really rich and solemn-looking church, consisting of a nave and side aisles. On the Gospel side of the principal altar is a beautiful picture of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, and on the Epistle side one of St. Patrick. There are three small altars in this chapel,—one to the Holy Virgin, one to St. Joseph, and one to St. Patrick. A nice organ is situated on a gallery in the end of the nave opposite

the grand altar. The new library, a large and lofty saloon, which is not yet furnished with books, is a noble chamber, being 160 feet in length, and about 36 feet in breadth. The refectory is next in size to the library, and is a very extensive and commodious apartment. Portraits of the several presidents, and some of the most eminent of the professors of the College, are to be seen lining the walls of this capacious chamber. The next in point of extent is the meditation hall, also called the examination hall, which, from its size, and the appropriate style of its arrangements, attracts in an especial degree the notice of the visitor. The several class-rooms are well arranged, and afford evidence of a judicious economy. The library, which still remains in the old part of the college, is well furnished with valuable works: some of them, as may well be supposed, being rare, and of the highest character, are greatly prized. Among other works of long standing, the visitor is shown a copy of the Bible published in Henry VIII.'s time, which is finely printed, and in excellent preservation. A specimen of the handwriting of that monarch, a very neat and delicate style, appears on one of the blank leaves in the front of the book. The kitchens, with their extensive ranges and various apparatus, as well as the bakery, are worthy of a visit, as from the quantity of provisions that is daily prepared for the students, about 550 in number, together with the professors and heads of the College, and the various servants and supernumeraries, they form very important and interesting portions of the establishment. About fifty sheep and a couple of carcases of beef are generally consumed each week.

The old building, which may be considered the parent of the institution, is on the south side of the present pile. It was in contemplation sometime since to build a new and more extensive chapel on the open side of the back square; but doubts have been entertained as to whether it would be prudent to do so, as, in a sanitary point of view, the enclosure of the quadrangle might have an injurious tendency. On the south-eastern angle of the lawn, among other beautiful trees, is to be seen a magnificent Irish yew, the history of which can be traced for the last 400 years, and yet it looks as fresh and vigorous, and its foliage as bright, as the most youthful of its fellows. This fine old tree is but a short distance from the venerable ancient tower, to which is attached the Protestant church, which has recently undergone extensive repairs, and is now a very handsome structure, consisting of a nave and side aisles. The roof has been entirely renewed, as have the windows, which are in the Gothic style; the old and stately tower, which is at the western end of the church, has also had restorations made upon it, and the whole presents a very pleasing appearance. The remains of the late Duchess of Leinster are deposited on one of the floors within this tower; which, together with that which adjoins the north-eastern boundary of the lawn of the college, gives to that institution an air of solemn and becoming

grandeur, and renders it an admirable subject for the pencil of the artist. The attention of the tourist is now directed to Carton, to which access is obtained by an open avenue, that is entered from the eastern extremity of the town. Proceeding by this avenue, which is half a mile in length from the gate-lodge at its entrance to another entrance with a porter's lodge on each side—that leads down to the lake which is formed by the Rye Water—and passing a handsome new bridge of three arches, he will soon arrive at the mansion, which stands on a gentle eminence at the distance of a mile from Maynooth. The grounds are extensive and beautiful, and comprise an area of about 1,000 acres, which is adorned with picturesque lakes, formed by barriers that are thrown across the Rye Water that flows through the demesne. The river is crossed by other bridges, north and south of that already mentioned, in its course to Leixlip, where it loses itself in the river Liffey, about three miles from the house. This princely residence, which shows its grand façade to the south, is in the Grecian style of architecture, and consists of a centre and fine pavilion wings, which are connected on each side by an elegant corridor. A magnificent portico is formed in the centre by rich Doric columns, supporting a splendid entablature and pediment; in the tympanum of the pediment are displayed the finely emblazoned arms of the Duke. The supporting figures of the monkey are prominently conspicuous in the arms of this illustrious family; an animal of that species, according to tradition, having, on the occasion of a fire which took place at the family residence, miraculously rescued the infant heir of the Geraldines from its fearful ravages. The fronts of the corridors are also decorated with fine Doric columns. The pleasure-grounds before this front are eminently beautiful, and are ornamented with chaste and classic statuary. In the centre of one of the lovely parterres, immediately in front of the south entrance to the mansion, stands the remarkable stone table, which is said to have been found in the council house of the grand castle. It is about three feet in height, and bears on its surface inscriptions in the Irish language. This curious and interesting remnant of antiquity is said to have been the council table used by the Irish monarchs in their assemblages at the Palace of Tara. Oblong and closely-shaven verdant grass-plots, stretching to nearly a furlong east and west of the central parterres, and bordered on each side with beautiful cypress trees, planted at uniform distances, which, by the care bestowed upon them, present the appearance of elegant and graceful pillars, attract the notice of the visitor, and have an uncommonly striking and pleasing effect. In many parts of these delightful pleasure-grounds are to be seen tiny Swiss cottages and unique temples, which, together with the elegant statuary, give a charming diversity to the beauteous landscape. Before the north front, in the centre of an extensive circular terrace, stands a fine statue of Hercules. The main edifice is entered in the centre of this front by a

large porch, ornamented with columns and pilasters of the Doric order, with four windows on each side,—those on each extremity being enriched with side columns and front balconies. There are nine windows in each of the two upper storeys, while the whole front is decorated by a grand final balustrade. The interior of this noble mansion suffered considerably from a recent accidental fire; but which, luckily, was much less destructive than under the circumstances might have been expected. Several tradesmen had been for months engaged in the repairs consequent upon this casualty; but in August, 1856, their labours were nearly brought to a close, the restorations in general being almost completed. The grand saloon, fortunately, escaped the ravages of the fire, which was a providential circumstance, as the magnificent ceiling, which cost a sum of £6,000, if injured, could not without much difficulty have been restored. This splendid work, with its beautiful classic figures in white and gold, was the performance of a company of Italian artists, who were for a considerable length of time engaged upon it. The rooms, although not very large, are really beautiful, many of them being decorated with fine paintings by the best masters. Among others, the visitor becomes struck with that of a lady called the "Fair Geraldine," an exquisitely beautiful picture, representing a daughter of this illustrious house, of delicately fair complexion, with rich auburn hair. The great liberality for which his Grace the Duke is so proverbial was strikingly exemplified at this time, who, notwithstanding several noble and distinguished visitors being then staying at Carton, permitted a stranger, not only to visit the grounds, but even granted access to the state apartments of the mansion. Among the visitors thus assembled here was his Grace the Duke of Bedford. His Excellency the Earl of Carlisle, the Lord-Lieutenant, paid a visit to his Grace the previous day. Her Grace the Duchess was at this time in a delicate state of health; the shock to her system, on the occasion of the fire, being followed by a general debility, from which she never perfectly recovered. She departed this life a few years since, much regretted, not only by the Duke's tenants and dependants, but by all the people of Maynooth and its neighbourhood.

The gardens and offices are situated on the eastern side of the mansion, and are of considerable extent. On an elevation south-east of the house stands an observatory, which commands a magnificent prospect. In this vicinity is also situated the elegant and far-famed cottage, with its unique and elaborate shell-work. This curious and interesting temple is generally visited by all strangers who are attracted to this grand place. The extensive and beautiful demesne is studded with timber of large growth and vigour. Besides that which is indigenous to this country, many specimens of the rarest exotics have been introduced and carefully nurtured. These, by the maturity they have attained, afford evidence of the skill with which they have been treated.

Leaving the demesne of Carton, the tourist, availing himself of a car, which can be procured at Maynooth, may proceed to Leixlip, or, as the distance does not exceed three miles, and as the walk is remarkably pleasant, he may with ease make the journey on foot. The village of Leixlip is beautifully situated in a romantic valley on the margin of the river Liffey, and in the county of Kildare. It consists of one long street, containing some comfortable houses, which, in the year 1856, were showing evidences of neglect, and therefore presented an unprepossessing appearance. The Protestant church, a plain edifice, with an equally plain tower, is conveniently situated in the centre of the town. The Catholic church, a new and handsome structure, of oblong form, in the Gothic style of architecture, is finely situated on an eminence at a short distance north-east of the town. Leixlip Castle and demesne, a delightful residence, was at this time in the occupation of the late Baron Robeck, who, soon after, was unfortunately drowned in the Liffey, which flows beneath the castle grounds. This castle, which stands on a rich mount, the sides of which, before the south and east fronts, slope downwards to the river, and display terraces and plantations of a charming and varied character, was built by Adam Fitz-Hereford, one of the earliest of the Anglo-Norman adventurers. It was subsequently one of the defensive holds of the Geraldines, and was occupied, it is said, by the celebrated but unfortunate Lord Thomas Fitz-Gerald, commonly called the Silken Knight. The north front, in which is the principal entrance, is flanked on the east by a massive square tower, and on the west by an equally strong tower, of circular form. These defensive appendages, at present mantled with luxuriant ivy, and rising majestically above the surrounding trees, have a very imposing appearance, and carry the mind of the visitor back to times long past, although not entirely forgotten. To the east the castle shows its broad façade, which, with its Gothic windows, presents a comfortable, domestic aspect. Before this front the river spreads considerably, and being joined by the Rye Water, after passing the demesne of Carton, has an enlarged and picturesque appearance, which is enhanced by the groups of lofty and vigorous trees that grow upon the island, formed in the centre of the watery expanse. Modern additions have been made to the south and west sides of the castle, in which are situated the servants' apartments, and the other various offices. A finely-shaded avenue, extending along the margin of the turgid and rapid river Liffey, on the north side, leads to the celebrated Salmon Leap, which is formed by a steep ledge of rock, which crosses the whole river at the western extremity of the demesne. This really magnificent cascade is produced by the entire volume of the swollen river bounding like an avalanche over the obstructive barrier, and in its fall foaming and roaring, as it were, in the full consciousness of its triumphant conquest over every obstacle, and increasing its speed in proportion to the vain efforts made to arrest it, rushes impetuously

towards its ultimate destination. Against this overwhelming cataract, and the rocky barricade, it is curious to see the noble salmon in their upward spring clearing at a bound the almost insuperable obstruction, and cleaving their way towards that haven of safety and repose to which the unerring instinct of an Almighty power directs them, in order that, as the poet Thompson says, "Nature's great command may be obeyed." Much to the credit of the conservators of the fisheries, a passage has been cut through the rock on the north side, whereby the fish will the more readily be enabled to make their way to the upward streams in the spawning season. This will be a great advantage, as doubtless many of these splendid creatures must have been injured by coming in contact with the face of the iron rock in their powerful efforts to overcome the formidable obstruction. There is a small factory on the south side of the river, from the neighbourhood of which splendid views are obtained, not only of the castle

SALMON LEAP.

grounds and demesne, but of the whole landscape on both sides of the river, and the surrounding country, which abounds in fine woodland and park scenery. There are several handsome seats in the neighbourhood, and extensive mills on the banks of the river at a short distance from the town.

Lucan, like Leixlip, appears to be a very sinking place; and notwithstanding its celebrated spas, may now be almost designated a deserted village, although for many years it was the resort of the fashionable and the gay.

While in this neighbourhood, the tourist can with convenience visit Celbridge, a prosperous small town, favourably situated on the left bank of the Liffey, about eleven miles from Dublin. The principal part of the town is in the parish of North Salt, in the county of Kildare, and the lesser portion in that of South Salt, in the county of Dublin. The river, which here spreads considerably, is crossed by a

stone bridge of six arches: extensive flour-mills are worked by its power in the vicinity of the town. This stirring little place owes much of its prosperity to the circumstance of Messrs. Shaw and Haughton having established a large linen factory here. Mr. Shaw's brother-in-law carries on a similar establishment about a mile from the town. There are some tolerably good shops here, and a comfortable hotel.

The Catholic church, at this time a plain old cruciform structure, has since been replaced by one of a character more in accordance with the spirit of the age, which is decidedly favourable to the erection of suitable temples for the worship of our Almighty Creator. This fine new church was commenced in the month of March, 1857, and was dedicated to St. Patrick, on Trinity Sunday, 1859. It is in the Early Pointed style, and consists of a nave, chancel, and side aisles, with a chapel dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, and another to the Most Adorable Sacrament.

The Protestant church, a plain, old-fashioned building, with a square embattled tower, is situated at one extremity of the town, and within the entrance to the demesne of Castletown House, the fine seat of Thomas Connolly, Esq., M.P. for the county of Donegal. This noble demesne is approached by an avenue nearly half a mile in length, bordered with large and closely-planted trees. The mansion is of great extent, and somewhat in the style of his Grace the Duke of Leinster's house at Carton, but larger. It also consists of a centre and two wings, connected by semicircular colonnades, of the Ionic and Corinthian orders. The entrance in the south, or grand front, is by a handsome door, on each side of which rises an Ionic column, supporting a rich pediment. This entrance is approached by two flights of seven steps each; there are six windows on each side of the door, and thirteen in each of the two upper storeys. The north front is entered by a handsome door from an extensive platform, which is approached by a single flight of half-a-dozen steps. This front corresponds, in its general appearance, with the southern façade, and contains the same number of windows. The wings have seven windows in each of their two storeys, and, like the central building, are of fine cut stone.

This splendid mansion is situated in an extensive park, intersected with numerous walks, the sides of which are decorated with stately trees; the rich lawn sloping gently downwards to the Liffey, that flows through the demesne. The gardens, which are of considerable extent, and very well attended to, are situated at some distance north of the house. In the grapery is one of the largest vines to be seen in these countries, being second only to the great tree of the same kind, which is deemed so rare a curiosity, at Hampton Court, near London.

In this neighbourhood is situated St. Wolstan's, where are to be seen the remains of a priory, founded, in 1202, by Adam Fitz-Hereford, in honour of St. Wolstan, Bishop of Worcester, then recently canonised. That this religious establishment was of con-

siderable extent, may be inferred from the dimensions of the two large gateways and towers, which are still remaining. At the suppression of the monasteries, the site and lands were granted to Allen, Master of the Rolls, and afterwards Lord Chancellor.

Leaving this flourishing small place, the tourist, without much loss of time, may proceed to Newbridge, a comparatively new and thriving town, consisting of one long and wide street; the military barracks, with their yards and offices, forming one side of it, and the new and fresh range of houses, with their neat and commodious shops, the other side. This town presents the appearance of much comfort and prosperity; the shops, which for the most part are licensed to sell spirituous liquors, being well frequented by the military, of which there was, at this time, an unusually large number in the town. Indeed, from the number of the troops, and from the money necessarily spent by them, which falls, as it does, into the hands of a comparatively small number of persons, the town could be scarcely anything but prosperous. Beyond the business part of the town, in a westerly direction, evidences of taste and comparative refinement present themselves. These are manifested in the neatness and beauty of the cottages, which, in detached groups of three or four dwellings, and in some instances of single ones, extend to a distance of more than a quarter of a mile. They are for the most part thatched, with railed-in areas in front, which are planted with ornamental shrubs and flowers, that, together with the creepers which overspread the walls, present a really delightful appearance, while they gratify the senses by the fragrance of their perfume. About a quarter of a mile beyond these nice dwellings is situated the Protestant church, a neat, small edifice, with an embattled tower of corresponding proportions. The body of the church is enveloped in a rich coating of ivy, whose luxuriance is such, as almost to render invisible its lancet windows. This nice house of worship is called Moorfield Church, it being built on a part of the estate of Ponsonby Moore, Esq., whose fine house and demesne are situated in its immediate vicinity.

Near the church is the hotel kept by Mr. P. Doyle, a very respectable and well-conducted establishment, with which is connected extensive posting

The barracks, which were built for cavalry, are very extensive, and when viewed from the centre of the principal square, display three sides of an extended oblong—the central range being about 250 feet in length, and the wings about 120 feet in depth. This square comprises an area of considerable extent, and affords ample space for parade and drill purposes for all the troops stationed in the barracks. The back square, which leads to the extensive stables, is entered in the middle of the central range by a capacious arch, surmounted by a pediment containing a clock; while above the pediment rises an ornamental tower, crowned with a cupola, from which springs a weathercock. There were within the barracks at this time about 700 men and 1,000

horses, the disparity between the men and horses having been occasioned by so many of the former being drafted to the seat of war. The following detachments were then stationed there:—the Scots Greys, or 2nd Dragoons; the 4th Dragoons; the 5th Dragoons; the 8th Hussars; the 11th Hussars; and the 3rd Dragoons. The last mentioned was a full regiment, and the others depôts. In addition to these, there was also stationed here a battalion of the Horse Artillery. In the eastern end of the town the river Liffey is crossed by a stone bridge of very long standing, it being erected in the year 1308. Since the removal of the ancient bridges of Thomond and Athlone on the Shannon, this is considered to be the oldest structure of the kind in Ireland. The Catholic church, a new and very fine edifice, dedicated to St. Conlath, Bishop of Kildare, is situated immediately south-east of the bridge. It consists of a nave, choir, and chancel, and is a substantial structure, in the English style of the twelfth century, 120 feet in length, and 50 in breadth. Handsome Gothic windows, five in number, appear on each side of the church; besides the lancet-shaped windows, one in each of the five sides of the eastern projection, which forms the chancel. Beneath the dome of this polygonal space, and within a Gothic arch of lofty and grand proportions, were placed, on the 23rd of January, 1859, the splendid altar and tabernacle, manufactured by Mr. Kirwan, of Bolton Street, Dublin. These strikingly beautiful specimens of native taste are composed of Italian and Irish marbles, from Carrara, Sienna, Cork, and Galway. North of the bridge, a very delightful prospect presents itself, in which are included the convent, chapel, and school of the pious brethren of the Dominican order. These interesting and handsome structures are situated at the extremity of a rich lawn on the western bank of the Liffey, and cannot fail to attract the notice of the stranger who visits this rising place. The convent and chapel of the pious fathers are dedicated to St. Thomas Aquinas, and their seminary is called after him. The principal hotel, a good house, is situated in this end of the town.

The small town of Clondalkin, situated about five miles from Dublin, in a south-westerly direction, is not unworthy of a visit from the tourist. It consists of one irregular street, in which are some reasonably good houses. There are a couple of paper-mills here that are worked by Mr. Seery, an enterprising man of business, in which a considerable number of hands find constant employment.

The Protestant church, which is situated in the neat churchyard of the village, having been lately repaired and enlarged, presents a very nice appearance. The glebe-house, the neat residence of the incumbent, the Rev. David J. Reade, is situated at a short distance from the church. The Roman Catholic church, an old, plain, cruciform edifice, was at this time, it was thought, about to be replaced by a new church; the Rev. Father Moore, the parish priest, having procured a site for its erection at some distance south of the Protestant church, and immediately adjoining the new nunnery then being built

in this neighbourhood. The nunnery here mentioned, which belongs to the sisters of the Presentation order, is well situated at the extremity of a spacious area of about two Irish plantation acres in extent, enclosed within a strong boundary wall, constructed of the hard limestone quarried in the vicinity of the town. The general body of the building, which is in the Gothic style of architecture, is composed of the same material, which contrasts finely with the Ballybrack granite, of which the buttresses, chimneys, window-edgings, and other ornamental parts are formed. It has been stated that a monastery which was early founded here, of which St. Cronan was the first abbot, had been plundered and burnt down by the Danes on three several occasions. It is also said that a palace was erected by their chief, Anliffe, which, in 806, was destroyed by Ciaran, the son of Ronan.

Near the entrance to the village, at a short distance east of the old Catholic church, and on the property of Francis Smyth, Esq., is a castle, in tolerable preservation, which was one of the ordinary defensive structures so frequently to be seen in various parts of the country.

But the most remarkable object to be seen in Clondalkin is one of the round towers, concerning which so much has been said and

THE ROUND TOWER OF CLONDALKIN.

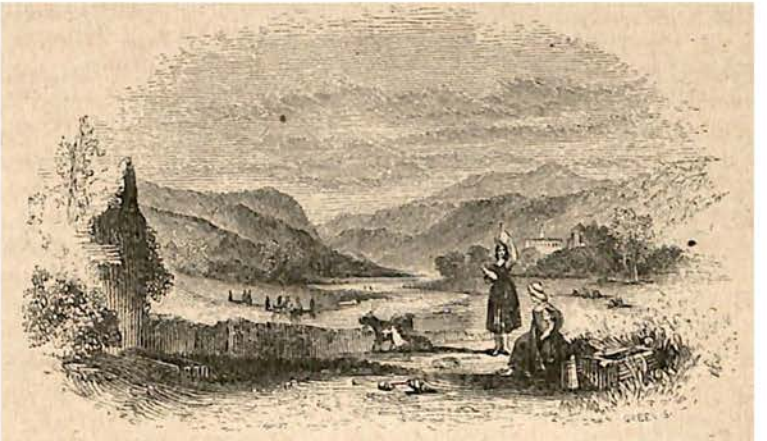
written, and which, owing to the loss or destruction of the ancient records of the country, are a subject still remaining open to speculation and conjecture. This interesting remnant of antiquity stands near the remains of the old monastery, which was about 120 feet in length, and 60 feet in breadth. It is nearly 100 feet in height, and 15 feet in diameter; and, although in a state of comparative preservation, is not so fresh in its general appearance as many of the same description which are to be seen in this country. The sides, for more than half its height, being covered with ivy, may account for its sombre aspect. The door by which it is entered is some 13 or 14 feet high from the ground, and is approached by steps, embedded in the solid masonry that surrounds the base of the tower, which appear to be of comparatively modern construction. The usual apertures or windows, which in

towers of this description face the cardinal points, are in this one glazed, and can be opened as occasion may require. The proprietor, Mr. Caldbeck, has fitted up a room or observatory in this part of the tower, to which he has contrived a convenient means of ascent; and to which visitors are admitted on paying the small sum of sixpence, which is appropriated to the support of a poor deserving family.

From the apex of the conical roof the royal standard of England is frequently seen to float. The celebrated Doctor Ledwich affected to entertain the belief that this, as well as the round towers in general, owe their erection to the Danes; but his authority, when put in competition with other writers on this subject, would seem to be entitled to little weight. The historian Moore, in speaking on the same subject, says, "The supposition that these towers were erected by the Danish invaders, is unsupported by any clear or plausible evidence." "In the time of Giraldus," says this writer, "the history of the actions and exploits of these invaders was yet recent; and had there been any tradition, however vague, that they were the builders of them, the Welsh slanderer would not have been slow to deprive Ireland of so great an honour." But, on the contrary, Giraldus expressly states that they were built in the manner peculiar to the country. "Had these towers been the work of the Danes," says Mr. Moore, "there would, one should suppose, have been found traces of similar structures in their own country, or in other parts of Europe occupied by them; but not a vestige of such buildings has been discovered, nor any tradition relating to them." In Ireland, round towers, or remains of them, are found in places which the Danes never possessed; while in some of the places where they had effected settlements, such as Waterford and Wexford, no building of the kind has been ever known to exist.

A school for the education of youth has long been established at this place, by a community of monks, where boarders are taken, and a polite and classical course of instruction inculcated.

Having thus taken a cursory glance at the small towns lying west of the metropolis, and on the banks of the Liffey, I shall conclude my notice of Dublin city and county, and direct the attention of the tourist to the far-famed county of Wicklow, so rich in sylvan and scenic beauty, and also in mineral wealth. Having entered this splendid county from the southern or Wexford side, and having made the town of Arklow my resting-place, I shall make that town my present starting-point; and shall do so the more willingly as it is so near the charming Vale of Ovoca, which is, as it must ever be, the great object of attraction to the lovers of the sublime and beautiful.



ARKLOW.

CHAPTER IV.

ARKLOW, VALE OF OVOCA, SEVEN CHURCHES, AND TOWN OF WICKLOW.

Arklow is favourably situated on the south bank of the Ovoca river, which here spreads itself considerably, and after passing in a divided form beneath the handsome bridge of nineteen arches, flows into the sea at the distance of about half a mile from the town. Quays, extending from the bridge to the entrance to the harbour, have been built on each side of the river. Like most of the seaports along the eastern shore, the entrance is so blocked up by sandy accumulations, that even vessels of small size cannot find access to it; while the bay is so open to the east and south winds, that at certain seasons it is dangerous to be caught in a situation so exposed.

Notwithstanding these natural disadvantages, such is the enterprise and spirit of a few practical individuals, that the business of the place has considerably increased of late; and although some years ago Arklow was little better than a mere fishing village, it is now a comparatively important and flourishing small town. This salutary change may be said to owe its existence to the praiseworthy efforts that have been made to work the mines in and adjoining the Vale of Ovoca.

These efforts have been crowned with success, and a tramway has been laid down, to convey the produce of the mines to the town for shipment, which runs along the north bank of the river, and passes

through a dry arch that has been opened in the approach to the bridge on that side. A branch extending from it crosses the river to the south side, passing through one of the central arches of the bridge, and thus conveys the ore to the lighters, by which it is carried to the vessels that lie at some distance from the harbour's mouth. A pier was constructed some few years since, which extends about a hundred yards into the sea, on the south side of the river, which it was hoped would have the effect of preventing the accumulation of the sand as heretofore, and thereby obviating the inconvenience occasioned by the choking of the entrance to the harbour.

These improvements, although the latter has not realised all the hopes that were anticipated, have given a great impulse to the business of the port, as vessels of larger size have been recently purchased, and employed in the conveyance of the produce of the mines to England.

Numbers of the inhabitants support themselves by fishing, those engaged in the oyster fishery having to go a considerable distance from home.

The great value of industrial enterprise is fully demonstrated in the circumstances of this town; for during the worst period of the recent years of destitution, arising from blight and loss of crops, the poor-rate did not exceed two shillings and sixpence on the town. Owing, however, to so large a number of the inhabitants being entirely dependent on the fishery for support, Arklow is frequently visited by distress; as when, by the prevalence of adverse winds, they are prevented from following their adventurous avocation, their families are thrown upon the charity and benevolence of the people of business in the town, and of the nobility and gentry of the neighbourhood. The noble efforts that are made by the clergy and gentry in such seasons of distress, are such as to excite the liveliest feelings of gratitude and admiration. There are some neat houses, and several good shops in the town; and an excellent hotel and posting establishment kept by Mr. Kinsella, attached to which is the savings' bank, the only monetary office here.

The Protestant church is a fine modern building, graced by a handsome tower, with square minarets, from which spring ornamental pinnacles. A small, circular, embattled turret stands on the eastern side of the church. The Catholic church, a comparatively plain edifice, was, in the year 1861, being rebuilt, and in a forward state. It is a commodious structure, of cruciform character, consisting of a nave, transept, and, chancel, and, as a matter of course, will be capable of accommodating a large congregation.

The residence of the parish priest, the Very Rev. Canon Redmond, a neat, cottage-like house, adjoins the church. The efforts made by this energetic clergyman for the improvement and enlargement of his church, entitle him to the thanks and gratitude of his flock.

The military barracks, which form three sides of an oblong, and

are capable of accommodating about one company of infantry, are situated on a commanding elevation, nearly opposite the Roman Catholic church, and occupy the site of the ancient castle of this place,—a portion of the northern wall of which is to be seen in the rear of the surrounding area. From the appearance of this wall, it may be inferred that the castle was an extensive quadrangular building, of massive character and great strength. On the north-western angle stands the remnant of a large circular tower, the upper part of which has been rent in twain; one-half having fallen, while the remaining portion, richly mantled in ivy, is a fragment of what must have been a very strong adjunct of the great fortress. We find that in the year 1332, which was several years after Edward Bruce's rebellion, the English retook and rebuilt the Castle of Arklow. The Sessions House, a neat modern building, is situated immediately east of the barracks; and, as the latter stand on an eminence, may also be said to lie beneath them. We are likewise informed that a convent for Friars of the Dominican order was founded here, by Theobald Walter, High Butler of Ireland, who accompanied Henry II. to this country. According to the historian Mac Geoghegan, this nobleman was the maternal grand-nephew of Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury. It has also been stated that Theobald Walter, the third of that name, was buried in the church of this convent, where his tomb and statue were erected. Traces of this convent are said to have been discovered in the vicinity of the Protestant church. An ancient burial-ground, in all probability an appendage to this establishment, is situated on the north side of the main street, nearly opposite the last-mentioned church.

The environs of Arklow are not only interesting, but eminently beautiful. Ballyraine, the handsome residence of Henry Hodgson, Esq., is finely situated on a commanding elevation about a mile from the town. The lawn immediately in front of the house, which shows its principal façade to the east, is laid out in rich and fanciful pleasure-grounds; while the surrounding space is thickly studded with ornamental trees. A prospect at once ample and picturesque presents itself from the porch, in which are included a part of the town, with the sea, and the beautifully wooded hills in the vicinity of Shelton Abbey. A choice collection of pictures, many of them paintings by the first masters, are to be seen in the hall and the principal rooms of this house. The Earl of Carysfort's splendid mansion, called Glenart Castle, and beautiful desmesne are situated about a mile and a half from the town, and are approached by an extensive and curving avenue, which is skirted and sheltered on the east by a rich and sloping wood, and divided from the lawn by a clear and rapid river, which, in front of the mansion, is crossed by a neat stone bridge. The house is of quadrangular form, two storeys in height above the basement, and surrounded on all sides by a rich cornice. The principal entrance is in the east front, beneath a handsome portico, which

displays an embrasure balcony, supporting in the centre the richly-emblazoned arms of the noble earl. The grand façade, which shows on each extremity of its flat centre a semi-hexagon projection, presents itself to the south; the lateral projections containing the state apartments, which are elegantly furnished. A square tower, of graceful and imposing appearance, connects the south and east fronts, and gives to the whole building a castellated air. The pleasure-grounds lie west of the mansion, and are nicely laid out; they contain rare specimens of beautiful and valued trees, and among others a magnificent cedar of Lebanon. The conservatory is filled with a variety of foreign and native plants and flowers. Gardens extend still west of the pleasure-grounds; while on the north are situated the extensive offices. The demesne is of great extent and finely wooded, including within it every variety of the stately forest tree, and interspersed with the minor class of ornamental trees and shrubs, which at the close of autumn, arrayed in all the glory of their gorgeous, diversified, and parti-coloured foliage, display such a vast variety of beauteous tints, as the pencil of the artist vainly endeavours to imitate or portray. Crossing the neat and light bridge that spans the Ovoca river in front of Ballyraine House, the tourist will enter the beautiful grounds of the Earl of Wicklow. These grounds are as extensive, as they are unquestionably, both by nature and art, surpassingly lovely. Passing through a rich lawn of about two statute miles in extent, enriched in various directions with magnificent specimens of birch and chestnut-trees, the visitor will arrive at the splendid palace-like residence of the Noble Earl. This beauteous lawn, the greater portion of which lies on the east or Arklow side, is margined by the Ovoca river, and is intersected by another clear but small stream. The noble mansion, which is of quadrangular form, and but two storeys in height, was remodelled several years ago, by the clever architect Mr. Morrison, of Dublin. The style of the building is that of the early English, and its contour, to some extent, what may be called ecclesiastical.

The grand entrance is in the eastern side, beneath a fine portico, formed by three beautiful Gothic arches in the front, and a similar one at each end, surmounted by a highly-embellished balcony, with elegant pilasters, from which spring light and graceful pinnacles. In the rear of the portico, the front of the mansion displays its grand centre, with three finely-decorated windows, above which appear ornamental niches; the whole crowned with the earl's escutcheon, richly emblazoned, the distinguishing features in which are a buck on each side, and a lion on the top. The extensions, north and south of the grand centre, are equally rich and elaborately decorated, showing in each of their storeys four elegant windows. Like the centre, these lateral ranges are ornamented on each extremity by beautiful minarets, ending in pinnacles. Pilasters, also ending in pinnacles, rise between each window, and have an exceedingly beautiful effect. The south-

east angle displays a splendid semi-octagon tower, with an embattled parapet and pointed conical roof, surmounted by a rich cross. A fine Gothic window, of the style known in architecture as Middle Point, appears in each of the four sides of its two storeys. This is his lordship's study. The south front, which has six large windows in each storey, presents a very grand appearance; while a beautiful terrace, extending the entire length of the rich façade, forms a delightful promenade, from which there is a descent to the extensive and finely-planted lawn, by cut granite steps. Rich sloping mounts, clothed with the most beautiful forest trees, shelter the mansion on the north and east, and give it the appearance of comfort as well as of the greatest grandeur. The domestic apartments and the magnificent offices lie west of the mansion. The pleasure-grounds and principal gardens, which are of great extent, lie also on the west, and contain all that is calculated to charm and delight.

An elegant church-like building appears on the north side of this noble edifice, and is approached by handsome terraces, showing three distinct plains, within light ornamental railings. This magnificent adjunct is of oblong form, and is graced on its western end by a beautiful octagon turret, containing a splendid clock. From this turret springs a smaller one, of the same character, which is surmounted by a cupola and weather-gauge, and is furnished with a choice bell. A stranger would imagine that this auxiliary to the main edifice, so much in character with the name of this fine place, Shelton Abbey, was an elegant church. A mere casual visitor could not be expected to venture on a description of the interior of this grand building; but at the same time the commonest observer must be struck with the magnificence of the principal apartments. The entrance-hall, for instance, with its wainscoting of carved oak, and its beautiful traceried ceiling, commands his marked attention; while the great hall and gallery, which are of appropriate richness, are such as to excite his admiration.

The state apartments are all in a style of the greatest elegance, and the library furnished with a collection of the best and most approved works. The minor apartments are fitted up in a style of beauty corresponding with the classic taste which is everywhere apparent, and which renders the interior of this lordly house worthy of the high rank to which its external advantages justly entitle it, that of being second to no other mansion in the county of Wicklow. The river, as it flows beside the lawn, immediately before the south front, confers great advantages on this fine seat; and varying, as it does, in accordance with the changeful seasons, cannot fail to minister to the susceptibilities of the profound or poetic student. Occasionally it becomes a roaring torrent, filling the mind with images of Alpine grandeur and sublimity; at other seasons clear and calm, it glides along engendering ideas of the most agreeable nature, and wooing the listener to balmy and tranquil repose. About a furlong on the east of

the mansion are situated the vegetable gardens, which are sheltered on the north by a thickly-planted elevation, and possess the advantage of a fine southern aspect. Hothouses, and long ranges of greenhouses, are to be seen in several parts of them. The noble proprietor has caused an embankment to be raised on the margin of the river, on which a nice walk has been laid out, which he reserves for himself and the visitors to the Abbey. The other approach, however, is equally short and convenient; and access is thereby afforded, at all times, to the mansion and beautiful grounds.

Leaving this delightful place, the tourist will soon arrive at the Wooden Bridge, which may be considered the entrance to the renowned Vale of Ovoca, where, should he feel so disposed, he can take up his quarters at the neat and comfortable hotel—an establishment every way worthy of the fame and celebrity it has acquired. The situation of this unique and favourite resting-place is decidedly the most favourable that could be chosen in any part of the beautiful vale. It is about two miles from the seats of the Earls of Wicklow and Carysfort, and at an equally short distance from the flourishing mines, so spiritedly worked by Henry Hodgson, Esq., and by his relative Mr. Barnes, the agent and representative of the Wicklow Mining Company. This nice hotel forms three sides of an oblong, and displays its handsome front to the north, from which may be obtained rich and varied views of the fine hills and valleys, which so plentifully abound in this envied vicinity. The clear and rapid river Aughrim flows beneath the handsome stone bridge immediately in front of the house, and after winding through rich and verdant meadows, falls into the Ovoca river, at a short distance from it. After this confluence, the enlarged Ovoca, its volume previously increased at the Meeting of the Waters, where the rivers Avonmore and Avonbeg unite, glides through widely-spreading savannas of great beauty, and between lofty and richly-planted hills, pursues its course in an easterly direction to Arklow, passing and embellishing in its meanderings the extensive and beautiful grounds of Shelton Abbey. From the elevated garden walks on the north side of the hotel magnificent prospects present themselves, and challenge the admiration of the tourist. The ample meadows already mentioned, display their verdant bosoms to the view; while the circumambient hills, clothed with every variety of forest trees, which exhibit their richly-tinted foliage to the beholder, call up feelings of unqualified pleasure and gratification. Such is the character of the eastern view, while that to the south is equally beautiful, but somewhat different in its phases. The western prospect is greatly enriched by the handsome ruin of Ballintemple, which, still in fine preservation, stands near the churchyard of that name; its hoar gables, when struck with the rays of the setting sun, contrasting boldly with the darkening shadows of the large and spreading trees. The north view is of considerable extent, embracing within it several interesting features; amongst others, the new and very

neat church of Castlemacadam, with its nice Gothic windows and handsome tower, situated in the popular burial-ground of the district, appears to great advantage. Near the church is a very pretty cottage in the Elizabethan style, which constituted the dwelling of the resident clergyman. It has some time since, however, passed into other hands, and can no longer be considered as an appendage to the handsome little church. Cherry Mount, the unique and picturesque residence of Mr. Oliver, falls within this view, which it considerably enhances by its scenic beauty. The station for the Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford line of railway, was laid out by the survey in a field a few perches from the hotel. When the line shall be opened to this point, the spirited proprietor will, doubtless, have to enlarge his establishment, as this envied locality will, as a matter of course, become a place of very general resort;—its rich woods, its ample and verdant lawns, its gently murmuring and sweetly-flowing river being eminently calculated to render it the abode of unalloyed pleasure and delight. Leaving the wooden bridge and advancing into the vale, the tourist will notice on the opposite side of the river, at a short distance from Newbridge, a very remarkable gate-lodge, standing within a capacious archway, which is ornamented on the west by a light and fanciful turret. This lodge is the entrance to the house and fine demesne of Ballyarthur, the property and residence of Colonel E. Symes Bayly. The avenue leading to the mansion, which is situated in an extensive lawn of sixty acres, is two miles in length, and winds in an upward direction through a luxuriant wood, that forms part of the demesne, which contains more than 1,600 acres.

From parts of this demesne, which is situated on the most elevated portion of the north bank of the Ovoca, can be obtained commanding views of the renowned vale, with the junction of the Aughrim and Ovoca rivers, called the Second Meeting, and the lofty mountain called Croghan Kinshela, which contains the gold-mines of this region. This charming demesne is open to all respectable visitors, and in the summer season is greatly resorted to, on account of the delightful prospect it affords of this enchanting neighbourhood.

The fresh and neat village of Newbridge, which takes its name from the substantial stone bridge that crosses the river, which flows beside the village, is about two miles from the wooden bridge. The Roman Catholic church and National school-house of this little place, together with the residence of the parish priest, situated at a short distance from them, are very interesting features. Extensive mills are worked on the river in this vicinity. At a short distance from Newbridge, and near the Ovoca Hotel, commence the mining works of the district. The first of these, called Ballymurtagh, is under the care and direction of Mr. Barnes, the agent of the Wicklow Mining Company; over 200 men were constantly employed in these works. The next is called Ballygahan, which is entered at a short distance

from the bold, rugged, and abrupt mountain called the Bell Rock. Around the sides of this rock extend a double row of wooden sluices, that convey the water, which had previously discharged its functions at the Ballymurtagh mines, to the adjoining works of Ballygahan, where it renders important advantages, as a sufficient and independent supply of water is not otherwise available. These latter works are carried on by Henry Hodgson, Esq., whose useful and extensive undertakings may be said to extend from Glenmalure, near the Seven Churches, to the town of Arklow, a distance of about fourteen miles. Between his mining works and farms, this gentleman employs on an average 400 men throughout the year. He it was who constructed and carried out the line of tramway, which extends from the mines to the quays of Arklow, and conveys the sulphur ore to the vessels for exportation. The Cronebane works are situated on the opposite side of the river, and are carried on by the Messrs. Williams and Sons, of Cornwall, in England; one of the sons resides in a handsome house near the mines. The best specimens of copper to be found in the county Wicklow, are those which are obtained in these mines. While here, the tourist will have a convenient opportunity of seeing the mode by which precipitate of copper is obtained from fragments of old and worn-out iron; the process, though interesting, is exceedingly simple. There were as many as 200 persons employed in these important works. The Connaree mines are the most distant of the works carried on in this neighbourhood, and extend considerably into the mountains, east of the Cronebane works. In these extensive mines, which are worked under the direction of John Markham Browne, Esq., 200 men find continuous employment. Thus it will be seen that nearly 1,000 men, being miners, are constantly employed in this neighbourhood; and when we add to them the carriers and other auxiliaries, the calculation is, that £500 a week are paid by these several concerns in wages alone. The opening and continuous working of these mines have been productive of the best consequences to the people of this part of the country, and especially to those in the town of Arklow, where it is very often difficult to find a single unemployed labourer. Numbers of these people are to be seen pursuing their labours, with a happy alacrity which at once unfolds the agreeable tale that they are fully sensible of the advantages they enjoy; and by their contented and cheerful demeanour, prove that they are by no means ungrateful for such blessings. This part of the county of Wicklow, but for the advantages arising from these works, would be one of the poorest districts in Ireland. Its numerous hills, covering so large a portion of the surface, render it, in an agricultural point of view, comparatively unproductive; hence we can recognise in the richness of its mineral products the all-bountiful goodness of a merciful Providence, which has given them as an equivalent for its otherwise barren area.

Castle Howard, the beautiful residence of Howard Brooke, Esq.,

is delightfully situated on the east of the Ovoca river, and immediately north of the Cronebane mines. It may be said to stand near the head of the magnificent vale, on a lofty cliff, which rises on the summit of the river's bank, and overlooks the confluence of the rivers Avonmore and Avonbeg. The demesne is of considerable extent; and the castle, with its fine ornamental turrets, can be seen rising proudly above the beautiful surrounding plantations. The excellent proprietor, with a degree of liberality worthy of the highest commendation, throws his splendid grounds open to all who visit this interesting locality. The castle and grounds being eminently beautiful, are therefore much frequented, and, no doubt, highly appreciated. Passing the Ovoca hotel, the tourist approaches the "Meeting of the Waters." It would be as absurd, as it would be superfluous, to enlarge upon this distinguishing feature, as the glorious and renowned Moore, "the poet of every circle, and the idol of his own," has long since given to it a classical immortality. After crossing the bridge which spans the river Avonmore, at a short distance above the confluence of that river with the Avonbeg, the traveller arrives at the extensive demesne of Avondale, the rich and beautiful seat of John Parnell, Esq., whose gates are ever open to the tourist. Here, having indulged in the gratification of all that wood, water, and a judicious and cultivated taste can supply in the disposition and arrangement of the beautiful grounds, he may pass on to the coach-road, and soon arrive at Rathdrum. The handsome and picturesque bridge at this village may be considered the termination of the famed and charming Vale of Ovoca. Proceeding to Dublin by this route, the tourist, after leaving the wooden bridge, luxuriates in the envied enjoyment which is to be found in travelling through the beautiful vale; and while tracing the course of the curving river in its progress amid extensive and verdant meadows, and admiring the rich and varied scenery which is so abundantly and so gracefully strewed upon the sides and summits of the adjoining hills, his mind becomes elevated from the rich works of nature to nature's God; and he occasionally pauses to offer his humble prayer of thankfulness and praise to the great Author of all these rare and transcendent beauties. Woodland scenery, especially in the autumn season, abounds in great richness and variety, and in no part of Ireland can it be seen to greater advantage than in the county of Wicklow. Looking north and south, the hilly ranges, studded with plantations, now in all the glory of their gorgeous foliage, with its thousand hues of amber, orange, purple, red, and green, furnish ample food for the delighted and enthusiastic tourist, as he ardently gazes on such enchanting scenes. Rathdrum, formerly a comfortable and thriving town, has, throughout the late years of famine and distress, suffered severely. Now, however, like many other places, it exhibits a decided change for the better, as the decreasing numbers in the union workhouse prove. This small town, which is about eight miles from Wicklow, derives its name of

Rathdrum, the "Fort on the Hill," from its elevated position on a lofty eminence. The confluence of the Avonmore and Avonbeg, or the Meeting of the Waters, is but a short distance from its southern extremity, while north of the town the Avonmore flows downwards from the Seven Churches through the Vale of Clara. In a more westerly direction, the Avonbeg, passing through the wild valley of Glenmalure, forms the picturesque waterfall of the Esk, at its termination. Rathdrum was at one time remarkable for its woollen manufactures, but it has long since ceased to carry on this important branch of native industry. The mart that was erected for the sale of this description of goods still remains, a sad monument of the melancholy change which has taken place in this respect. Part of the Woollen Hall was fitted up and used as a chapel for Roman Catholic worship for many years; very recently, however, a new and very handsome church has been erected in the town for the inhabitants of this persuasion. The Protestant church and the residence of the clergyman are situated on the side of an acclivity, and present a rich and very imposing appearance. There are a few neat shops in the town. The line of railway from Wicklow to Gorey and Enniscorthy has been opened to this town, and will doubtless confer substantial advantages upon it, from the number of tourists who will be induced, by the facility now afforded them, to visit the renowned Vale of Ovoca, and the other magnificent scenes in its vicinity.

Glanealy, a small, but very nice village, next attracts the attention of the tourist, and by its clean and cheerful aspect excites in his mind feelings of pleasure and gratification. This excellent specimen of comfort and apparent contentment presents such a picture as an Irishman, proud of his country, and solicitous for its prosperity, must rejoice in beholding. The Protestant church, a very neat house of worship, stands on an eminence in the popular burial-ground of the village, while the Catholic church and National school appear to equal advantage, the whole forming pleasing and very interesting features.

To those who walk abroad for the purpose of indulging in the delightful enjoyment which this part of Ireland affords, and marking the various gifts and beauties that the Almighty Creator has so unsparingly lavished upon it, perhaps it may be deemed of some importance to know where the best entertainment and assistance can be procured while they are engaged in the pursuit of such interesting objects. I shall therefore, without hesitation, venture to say, that in the picturesque valley, where, embosomed in rural comfort and loveliness, the tranquil and happy Ashford reposes, excellent quarters can be obtained. In this handsome village, with its nice Roman Catholic church, and its city-like hotel, the tourist will be sure to find everything calculated to minister to his comfortable accommodation. In the new and well-regulated concern, called the Glen Hotel, the visitor may repose in safety after his day of pleasurable toil, and rise re-

invigorated in the morning to enjoy new pleasures. A well-appointed posting establishment, in connection with the hotel, affords the means of transit to all the places of popular resort in the district, while the intimate acquaintance of the host, Mr. Moran, with all that is worthy of notice in the surrounding interesting neighbourhood, added to his bland and naturally obliging character, will induce those who visit his house once to resort to it a second time. There is also a house of public entertainment, and of long standing here, called the Ashford Hotel.

Ashford forms a convenient centre for several places of interest and importance; as, for instance, the Seven Churches, the Devil's Glen, Glenmore Castle, Ballycurry, and the Glen of Dunran. In the vicinity of Ashford are several beautiful seats, among the principal of which may be mentioned, Cronroe, the residence of the late Major Eccles; and Rosanna, the magnificent abode of Daniel Tighe, Esq., brother of the Right Honourable Colonel W. F. Tighe, the liberal and enlightened proprietor of the beautiful demesne of Woodstock, at Inistioge, county of Kilkenny. The demesne of Rosanna is of great extent, and abounds in bright and verdant lawns, which are enriched with large and spreading trees. The mansion is of ample dimensions, and remarkable for the elegance of its furniture.

Proceeding from Ashford to the Seven Churches, the tourist is conveyed by a steep mountain-road for a distance of about two miles, leaving the handsome church of Nun's Cross, the Devil's Glen, and the demesnes of Ballycurry and Glenmore on the right. After crossing the fine bridge of Nun's Cross, the first object that arrests attention is a handsome school-house, nearly opposite the entrance to the demesne of Francis Synge, Esq. From this point he slowly winds his way in an upward direction, amid young plantations which skirt and ornament the road, until he reaches the summit of the hill, from which may be enjoyed a truly magnificent prospect, comprising within it the Bay of Wicklow, the Rock of Carrick, remarkable for its dark and rugged crags; together with a great variety of splendid park scenery, including many of the beautiful seats already mentioned. He then enters an extensive mountain district, which in the centre abounds in turf. This region, although to a great extent destitute of ornament, makes ample amends in the sublime mountain views which it discloses. Here fine undulating hills, numerous and various, some of them, as seen in the distance, appearing in the form of graceful cones, burst upon the view, and engender feelings of unmingled admiration. About half way between Ashford and the Churches, the road branching off in a southerly direction, soon enables the tourist to obtain a view of the lofty mountains in the neighbourhood of his destination. At the distance of two miles from this diverging point, he will arrive at the handsome village of Annamoe, where the rapid river which flows downwards from the neighbouring lake passes beneath the bridge of this place, a high and old structure. This river, in its

course, runs through a deep and comparatively open valley, which for some distance on the north discloses itself: the swelling elevation by which it is bounded on the east being covered with heath, intermingled with furze, presents a dark and gloomy appearance. In this vicinity are some very handsome seats; that of Charles Frizell, Esq., called Castle Kevin, being situated on a rich eminence, surrounded by young and healthful plantations, appears to great advantage. On the western bank of the river the beautiful seat of the Rev. Mr. Grogan presents itself, and from its admirable situation in the midst of rich and ornamental trees, with its fine verdant meadows extending to the margin of the swiftly-flowing river, has a really delightful appearance. This very desirable dwelling is the glebe-house of the parish. On the north of the village, embosomed in beautiful trees, appears the handsome modern house of Thomas Johnston Barton, Esq., which is finely and romantically situated at the foot of an extensive mountain range. There is a very pretty Catholic church in the village, and, adjoining it, the handsome cottage of the parish priest, the Rev. Thomas Coleman.

About half a mile from the village, on the road to the Churches, is situated the residence of Mr. Booth, an English gentleman, who had lately become a resident of the district, and who had won golden opinions from all orders of men by his liberality and kindness. In the vicinity of his house, drainage works were being carried out by him, in which a considerable number of labourers found employment and remunerative wages. The advantage arising from these works was, even at an early period, to some extent, quite apparent, as a considerable breadth of damp and turfy soil had, by the draining process, been rendered dry and firm, and, from its appearance, showed symptoms of being nearly ready for the spade or the plough. Arriving at the romantic and interesting village of Larah, the tourist will notice a new and very fine stone bridge, consisting of a single arch of considerable span, which here crosses the rapid river. The Protestant church is situated on the eastern side of the river, and, with its handsome pinnacled tower, appears to fine advantage. Adjacent to it, is a new, and, for so small a place, an extensive school-house. At this side, also, is a very neat, cottage-like house, which is used as a police barrack. On the western bank of the river, and on the side of a sloping elevation, stands the new and very handsome Catholic church, which is in the pointed Gothic style of architecture, and appears to have been modelled from the cathedral, the ruins of which, in tolerable preservation, are still to be seen at the Seven Churches. At a short distance from this church is a National school-house. The next remarkable feature in this village is the new castellated structure, which stands within the enclosed area where formerly stood a small military barrack. This neat building has been erected by the Hibernian Mining Company, whose extensive works are carried on in the neighbouring hills, and was at this time occupied by Mr. Hatch, a

captain or overseer of the works, which are considered very productive, and yield a superior quality of lead. Another very important building has been erected here, within the last ten years, which is a fine large mill, of four stories in height, in which many persons find constant employment. There is also a comfortable hotel in the village.

Leaving this romantic and picturesque village, the traveller will notice, on the south, the nice residence of Mrs. Bookey, called Derrybawn, which, as it appears in the midst of rich and extensive plantations, is a remarkably interesting feature. Arriving at the Seven Churches, the tourist becomes immediately struck with the fine natural and antique objects which present themselves. Here the loftiest mountains skirt and encircle the dark and ruffled lakes, which, although of limited extent, have a rough and sea-like surface; while the numerous remnants of religion and piety that abound in this celebrated place fill the mind of the reflecting visitor with sentiments of profound reverence and awe. The ideas elicited by meditating on these rare combinations are of a truly sublime character. The extent of this renowned valley, which is surrounded by lofty mountains, is nearly two miles in length, and over half a mile in breadth. The bold and precipitous Lugduff, rising in towering grandeur, and commanding the attention and admiration of the tourist, together with the adjoining mountain, called Derrybawn, bounds it on the south. An equally elevated, but less ornamental, because a comparatively barren, mountain range appears on the north, and is composed of the mountains of Brockagh and Comaderry. The valley is rendered inaccessible on the west by another mountain of great magnitude, from the back of which descends the mountain torrent of Glendhasane, by which the lakes are principally fed. Its gorge opens towards the east, through which the waters of the lakes discharge themselves, by a wide and rapid stream, into the Avonmore, after passing beneath the bridge of Annamoe. The lake, or rather lakes, for there are two, the upper and lower, are over-shadowed by the vast precipices of Derrybawn and Lugduff, and present a scene of sombre magnificence, the dark and drear appearance of which may, perhaps, have furnished the immortal and lamented poet, Moore, with the ideas so finely shadowed forth in his exquisite lines commencing with the words—

"By that lake whose gloomy shore."

Indescribable sensations are felt by the visitor, as he views and meditates on the striking manifestations of Almighty power, which are so abundantly exhibited in this renowned region. In the side of the mountain called Derrybawn appears the chasm, or fissure, designated the Giant's Cut, which is considered a great natural curiosity. A remarkably fine echo can be obtained in this vicinity, the reverberations striking, as it would seem, on the opposite side of the valley. Many objects of imaginary importance and legendary lore are

brought under the notice of the tourist by the obsequious guide; but these mystic and minor curiosities fade into insignificance, when contrasted with the magnificent and stupendous natural objects by which he finds himself surrounded.

Ascending the mountain in the rear of the Glendalough Hotel, kept by Mr. Byrne, several picturesque cascades are to be seen. These are formed on the brook of the Glaneola as it falls into the upper lake, over steep and wooded rocks, and gratify the beholder by the music of their deep murmur and the silvery brightness of their feathery foam. This mountain stream flows through the ravine which divides the heights of Lugduff and Derrybawn. On this side of the glen, and beneath the gloomy and overhanging brow of Lugduff, is situated the cave, or excavation, called "St Kevin's Bed," which is of very limited dimensions, being barely sufficient to admit of two persons occupying it at the same time, while crouching in a recumbent position. Its height above the surface of the lake is about thirty feet, and it is generally approached in that direction, the passage to it from the mountain being tedious, and not wholly unaccompanied with danger, from the precipitous nature of the descent. From the commanding elevation leading to the bed, magnificent views are obtained, which consist of mountain rising above mountain; while in their encircled bosom the ruffled waters of the dark lake, upon which a gleam of sunshine rarely strikes, are seen to the best possible advantage. I think it would be difficult to find, in any spot of the same extent, such a combination of fine natural beauties as are concentrated in these majestic mountains and their romantic lakes. The water of the principal lake, although perfectly clear, is of a dark and sombre appearance.

In the deep solitude of the Vale of Glendalough, or, as its name implies, the "Valley of the two Lochs," the young and inspired St. Kevin early found a retreat worthy of the enthusiastic feelings of religion and piety which he so ardently cherished, and of which he has left to after ages such numerous and undying memorials. In making this admirable selection, he was doubtless impelled by his fine imagination, and his perception of the sublime and beautiful in nature. Most certainly a finer situation could not be chosen by one who was disposed to lead a life of piety and seclusion. Even in these degenerate days, it is impossible for the most indifferent believer in Divine truths to approach it without finding his heart and his feelings touched with sentiments of veneration. We find that St. Kevin, who was descended from a noble family, was born in the year 498, which was sixty-six years after the arrival of the blessed St. Patrick. At the age of seven years he was placed under the care and tuition of Petrocus, a learned Briton, who had spent many years in Ireland for his own improvement in learning. He continued with him till 510, when his parents sent him to the cell of three holy anchorites, with whom he studied for a considerable time previously to his embracing

the monastic life. On assuming holy orders, he retired to the solitude of Glendalough, where, among other works, he wrote a life of St. Patrick. He founded an abbey here, which he dedicated to SS. Peter and Paul, and having presided over it as abbot for several years, he died on the 3rd of June, 1618, having nearly reached the advanced and venerable age of a hundred and twenty years. His eminent virtues, great sanctity, and the fame of his miracles, induced many to imitate his example by adopting his mode of life. Amongst others, we find that St. Mochuarog, a native of Britain, was induced to come over to this country and take up his residence in a cell on the eastern side of Glendalough, where a city soon sprang up, and where a seminary was founded. From this seat of learning, as we are informed, were sent forth men, eminent for their sanctity and their learning, who were instrumental in diffusing the light of religious truth throughout many parts of the western world. On the 3rd of June, numbers of every age and sex assemble at Glendalough to celebrate the festival of the still greatly venerated St. Kevin. The ruins of the abbey, which originally consisted of two parallel ranges of building, apparently of a style exceeding in elegance of architecture any of the buildings in this interesting place, are situated at the bottom of the vale. The larger of those buildings, that on the south, was the church of the monastery. There are still evidences of this superiority of style to be found in the richly sculptured and embellished devices, and in the remains of the fine arch and eastern window. The fanciful capitals, and the ring-stones of the arches, are ornamented with human heads at the angles, and with those of dragons, and other fabulous animals at the sides. Among the heaps of rubbish which were removed several years ago from beneath the grand arch at the east end of the abbey, were found remnants of curious and fantastic architectural ornaments, some of which were of lozenge shape, and others representing leaves, flowers, beasts, and birds. The Church of the Holy Trinity stands on a rising ground north of the abbey, and consists of a nave and chancel, separated by a fine Norman arch. In front of this church there is a circular building, based upon a square platform or foundation, which would seem to have been intended for a belfry. The most conspicuous ruin in this renowned locality is the cathedral, which owes its origin to St. Kevin, by whom it was dedicated to Saints Peter and Paul, the patron saints of the abbey. This ancient building is 48 feet in length and 30 in breadth, and consisted of a nave and choir, connected by a circular arch, which has fallen many years since. Three narrow windows in the southern wall of the nave, and the east window of the chancel, enriched with sculptured allegorical mouldings, are still remaining. The western doorway—which is 6 feet 4 inches high, 3 feet 6 inches wide at the top, and 3 feet 10 inches wide at the bottom—composed of blocks of granite, is also in tolerable preservation. Vestiges of a small building which, in all probability, formed the sacristy, are to be seen adjacent to the cathedral.

Numerous crosses, many of them broken, are to be seen here; one of these, formed of a single block of granite, is about 11 feet in height, and very richly wrought. It is said that this cross formerly stood in the market-place of the ancient city; it is now, however, not only the largest, but the most perfect to be seen in the cemetery. A very curious structure, with a stone roof, is one of the most perfect of the remains of these ecclesiastical edifices. It is about 22 feet in length, 15 in breadth, and 20 feet in height, and the walls 3 feet 6 inches thick. This church, which is evidently of very remote antiquity, has been called "St. Kevin's Kitchen," the roof is of very high pitch, the ceiling circular, and it is lighted by a single window. West of this building stands a small chapel, of more recent construction, but similarly lighted, with a roof of lower pitch. This small structure was used for Roman Catholic worship so late as within the last forty years. A very remarkable appendage of St. Kevin's Kitchen, is the round belfry which rises from the west end of the church. The height of this belfry tower is about 45 feet, and the ridge of the roof 30 feet from the ground. The roof of the tower, as well as that of the church, is composed of thin stones. Still west of these, and on the same side of the valley, is the ruin of a house of worship, called the "Church of Our Lady;" being richly mantled with ivy, it is sometimes called the Ivy Church. This church is now almost entirely in ruins; but from the doorway and the few remains of the walls, it appears to have been built with a more perfect knowledge of the builder's art than most of the other structures. The door is 6 feet 4 inches in height, 2 feet 6 inches in width at the top, and 2 feet 10 inches at the bottom. The lintel is 5 feet 6 inches in length, and 1 foot 2½ inches in depth; and a kind of architrave, 6 inches in breadth, is worked round it. The walls are carried up with hewn stones, generally of a large size, to the height of the door; the remainder being of ragstone, well and regularly laid. At the east end was an arch of hewn stone, similar to that of the cathedral. Rhefeart, or the "Sepulchre of Kings," is rendered famous for having been the burial place of royalty, seven princes, as we are told, having been interred within its limits. In this church is the tomb of O'Tothill, or O'Toole, the ancient chieftain of the neighbouring country, who, according to an inscription in the Irish language, died in Christ, in the year 1010. Many others of his family are said to have been interred here, where a stone cross, elegantly carved, is still preserved. These ruins are embosomed in handsome trees, principally hazel, within which are to be seen fragments of several ancient crosses; and are situated on the side of the valley, near to where the Glaneola river falls into the lake.

The Priory of St. Saviour, commonly called the Eastern Church, is a mass of ruins, of which little can be discerned save the foundation. Between thirty and forty years ago, however, a quantity of stones, finely wrought, was discovered here; and subsequently, on removing a

heap of rubbish—the accumulation of centuries—two clustered columns were found, which had supported a fretted arch, composed of the before-mentioned stones that led to the discovery; upon these columns appeared curious emblematic decorations. Another ruin of a church, called Teampulnaskellig, or the "Temple of the Desert," is situated on the south side of the glen, and at the foot of Lugduff mountain. This church was also called the Priory of the Rock, and sometimes St. Kevin's Cell. About midway up the valley may be seen the remains of the ancient city of Glendalough, now a heap of ruins. It occupied a gentle eminence, projecting from the base of Comaderry, the summit of which is 1,567 feet above the surface of the lake. These shattered memorials of this fallen, but once important place, call up feelings of melancholy and regret in the minds of all who visit this part of the valley.

One of the most remarkable, as it is one of the most perfect, remnants of antiquity to be seen here, is the tall and slender Round Tower, which stands on a gentle eminence, near the ruins of the cathedral, within the precincts of the cemetery. It is about 110 feet in height, substantially built, and is composed of the species of slate which abounds in the neighbourhood, and also, in part, of granite. This tower differs but little from the most perfect structures of the same kind, which are to be seen in many parts of Ireland. It is open at the top, however, and is divested of the characteristic conical roof, with which, no doubt, it was originally surmounted; this, perhaps, may have arisen from the operations of the rude hand of time, or from some accidental cause. The usual openings near the summit, and in portions of the sides, are also visible in this structure. While gazing on its stately form, still uninjured by the lapse of ages, the mind of the tourist becomes occupied with the recollections of all he has read regarding the origin of these mysterious structures; and although the subject is involved in much doubt and uncertainty, the circumstance of finding some of them in such close proximity to cathedrals and churches, as in the case of that at present under consideration, would warrant the supposition that they were used as belfries. The churchyard of Glendalough has continued for ages to be used as a favourite burial-ground; and, therefore, tombs and monuments are very numerous. The tomb of St. Kevin is said to have been found in a crypt or oratory, near the monastery church, some five-and-twenty years since. In leaving this remarkable and memorable locality, in which my feelings became so warmly and so deeply interested, I felt considerable humiliation in the consciousness that no effort of mine could do anything like justice to its superlative sublimity, and its transcendent claims to public notice. I felt my inadequacy the more forcibly, when I recollected that the scenes upon which I would fain descant had been touched by the hand of one of our greatest poets; and I feared to trust myself while travelling over the ground where Moore had left his foot-prints, and where the great Sir Walter Scott, and the

fascinating Mrs. S. C. Hall, had left unobliterated memorials of their visits. The initials of the great bard of the North are still to be seen on the side of the entrance to St. Kevin's Bed.

In this city of the wilderness, among the mountains of Glendalough, and in the vicinity of the solitary cell of St. Kevin, then considered a sacred retreat, the great St. Laurence O'Toole passed his noviciate, and prepared himself for the high ecclesiastical dignities to which he was so early called. This pious and eminent prelate, who was styled, as St. Bernard informs us, the Father of his country, was of the illustrious house of the O'Tuathals, being the youngest son of Murchertach O'Tuathal, Prince of Imaile, in the county of Wicklow. When but a boy, he was, by his own desire, dedicated to religion, and, under the care of the Bishop of Glendalough, made considerable progress in learning and piety. At the early age of twenty-five years he was elected abbot of the monastery, and within a few years, consecrated Bishop of Glendalough, and subsequently translated to the Archbishopric of Dublin. His biographer informs us that the holy seclusion of the Valley of the Lakes, where so large a portion of his early days had been passed, continued through life to retain a charm for him; and it was his delight occasionally to retire to Glendalough, and there within the cave, which had been used as an oratory by St. Kevin, to pass weeks in penance and mortification, while communing with the Great Being, whose minister he was, in fervent prayer and solitary contemplation. Emerging from his voluntary retirement, and thus prepared for the double duty of prelate and patriot, we find him evincing an untiring zeal for the independence of his native land. His charity and munificence were boundless; in fact, he gave all he possessed to the poor; for when at his death, which occurred in Normandy, on the 14th of November, 1180, he was reminded to make his will, he answered, "God knows, I have not a penny under the sun." His remains were deposited in the middle of the church of Angum, where they remained till the time of his canonisation, by Pope Honorius III., in the year 1226, when, with great solemnity, they were placed over the high altar, and preserved in a shrine. Some of his relics were sent to Christ Church, Dublin, and some to different parts of France. Returning from Glendalough to Ashford, the tourist should proceed by the line of road which runs parallel with the river Avonmore, as it passes through the richly wooded, picturesque, and beautiful Vale of Clara, which ends at Rathdrum. This route is rendered the more pleasing, as the traveller will have an immediate opportunity of contrasting its charming and comparatively mild, but still delightful scenes, with the bold, rugged, and wild features which characterise the Valley of Glenmalure.

Proceeding from Ashford to the justly celebrated Devil's Glen, the tourist, after passing the neat church of Nun's Cross,—a cruciform structure, with a handsome pinnacled tower containing a clock,—will soon arrive at Ballycurry, the splendid seat of Charles Tottenham, Esq., M.P.,

upon whose property that part of the glen is situated, which lies north of the intersecting river, and through which alone access can be obtained by cars to this beautiful place. Ballycurry itself is well worthy of a visit, being delightfully situated within a rich lawn, elegantly planted, and enjoying some of the most magnificent views which can be obtained in this celebrated county. Immediately in front of Mr. Tottenham's unique gate-lodge is the entrance to the glen, to which, owing to the great liberality of the proprietor, strangers are at once admitted by the person in charge. The visitor has to pass through three different gates before he arrives at the waterfall, which is situated at the head of the glen. Neat rustic seats and tea-houses, appropriately decorated, have been raised on several parts of the grounds along the river's bank, which, in the summer season, serve as desirable resting-places. The entrance to the devious avenue, that winds through the centre of the glen, and along the north bank of the rushing torrent, is by the second gate. Lofty mountains, rising precipitously on each side of the valley, occasionally display their grey peaks above the rich and mantling forest trees by which they are clothed and enveloped. In many parts of the sides of these rocks, cascades, that in other situations would be deemed of considerable importance, are to be seen, but which here become comparatively insignificant when compared with the parent fall. Arriving at the last gate-lodge, near which is the entrance to the head of the glen, and having advanced for some distance in an upward direction, the tourist attains an elevation from which can be obtained a commanding view of this very remarkable and highly interesting place. Looking east and west from this point, he becomes struck with the peculiarly dark and lowering aspect of the valley; for in this part of it, owing to the precipitous height of the adjoining mountains, the sun never strikes upon its deeply-embedded bosom. This deep and absorbingly interesting gloom was, in all probability, suggestive of the fearful and abhorred appellation by which the glen is still known; but, like the dark spirit from which such appellation is derived,—that before his fall was bright and glorious,—it may to some extent be considered such as Milton describes him to be, sublime even in his imprisoned mystic darkness. Approaching the waterfall, the visitor is repaid for his toil in making his ascent to the fine table-rock, which extends immediately in front of it, as from this spot the mountain torrent can be traced for a considerable distance, and in its downward progress throwing up its light and silvery spray; when, after bounding from crag to crag, it tumbles into the dark abyss beneath, hissing and roaring in its troubled onward flight, and rolling over huge masses of rock in its passage through the glen. This turgid mountain stream divides two properties, that of Mr. Tottenham on the north side, through which the visitor proceeds to the waterfall, and that of Mr. Synge on the south, on which side the mountain rises so abruptly, even from the very edge of the river, that there is scarcely room for a single pedestrian

to pass. Hence we perceive that a walk has been constructed at considerable trouble and expense, in the side of the mountain, at, perhaps, a height of nearly 200 feet above the bed of the river, whereby the family and friends of the proprietor proceed along the lofty range to the vicinity of the cascade. Trees and shrubs, in great richness and variety, cover the steep mountain ranges on both sides of the river, and form such pictures as must ever cause this delightful place to be visited and admired by the lovers of beautiful nature.

Returning to Ashford, the tourist will doubtless pause to view the beautiful Glenmore Castle, the elegant seat of Francis Synge, Esq. This splendid building shows an extensive front to the north, which is graced in the centre by a large square tower, surmounted by light embattled turrets. A handsome range, enriched with a strong embattled cornice, and flanked on each extremity by a finely decorated circular tower, extends on each side of the centre. It displays its rich and principal façade to the east, which is of a lighter, but equally grand appearance. The grounds appertaining to this fine residence are extensive and beautiful, and afford conclusive evidence of how far, by judicious management, the useful and ornamental may be made to blend and harmonise with each other. Ashford has been greatly improved within the last few years, and a handsome bridge erected over the river Vartry, by which it may be said to be intersected. The Roman Catholic church, a handsome cruciform edifice, is situated immediately north of the bridge, and together with the adjoining neat cottage of the resident clergyman, forms a very agreeable and striking feature.

Passing from Ashford to the town of Wicklow, the tourist will pass through Rathnew, an open and healthful village, with nothing remarkably striking in its appearance. It is situated at the junction of the roads leading from Dublin, Bray, and Rathdrum, to Wicklow, and is intersected by the Vartrey river, over which there is a very fine bridge.

Like most of the old towns in Ireland, Wicklow may be said to consist of one long street, from which a few others branch off irregularly. One of the minor streets, called Bridge Street, branches from the main street to the old and plain stone bridge which crosses the river Vartrey, and leads to the fine, green, and extensive plain called the Murra. The eastern side of this verdant lawn is washed by the sea, and its western side margined by the river Leitrim; horse-racing occasionally takes place upon it. A handsome building has been erected in the centre of this verdant plain, in which a school for the education of the children of the town has been established, and where also a general loan-fund office is kept. This useful and ornamental structure is composed of a centre and wings, and is constructed of rich brick, with ornamental quoins and window-edgings of granite. It also contains an assembly-room, which is appropriated to public purposes, and occasionally used for exhibitions and other amusements.

The light, plain, wooden bridge—which some years since was erected at the distance of some 200 yards above the stone bridge, for the purpose of affording increased accommodation to the inhabitants in their intercourse with the Murra side, where several neat houses have been recently built—is now, in the autumn of 1862, about to be replaced by an iron bridge. Other improvements are contemplated, including a tramway for the conveyance of minerals from the Ovoca and other mines from the terminus of the railway to the quay; and also more effectual measures for cleansing and lighting the town. The Protestant church, a plain, strong building, with an equally plain tower, containing a clock, and surmounted by a remarkable cupola, being situated on an elevated site, is a very conspicuous object. Near the church is a handsome school for the education of the children of the Established religion, and adjacent to it the residence of the Protestant rector. On the opposite side of the roadway, or street, and also on a considerable elevation, is situated the new Catholic church, a fine cruciform structure, of ample proportions, in the florid Gothic style of architecture. Its rich front of pure granite is composed of a centre and flanking extensions, the centre forming the base of the tower, which enriches and ornaments this end of the building. The principal entrance is in the basement of the tower, beneath a capacious elliptic Gothic arch, over which is a beautiful window. In each of the flanking adjuncts there is also a handsome window, corresponding in style and appearance with that which stands above the principal door. A rich pilaster rises on each side of this door, as well as on each extremity of the wings. The tower is decorated on each angle by a handsome minaret, and a niche left for a clock over the grand window, while another fine Middle Point window appears above the circular space. There is a door in each transept, and over it a very beautiful window; while on each of their extremities rises a nice minaret, which springs from a substantial buttress. There is also a door in each side of the nave, and two doors in the sacristy, which is situated south-east of the church. Four handsome windows appear on each side of the nave, between each of which rises a fine pilaster. The several pilasters and minarets end in ornamental pinnacles, while the summit of the tower between the crowning pinnacles is elevated by an embattled range. The interior was not entirely finished when I paid my visit to the church; there were, however, a fine centre and side altars, the centre one being enriched by an excellent representation of the Crucifixion; one of the side altars was ornamented with a splendid Virgin and Child, and the other with a fine picture of St. Patrick. The old chapel, which is situated at a short distance north of the church, has been converted into schools for the education of male and female children, which are in connection with the National Board of Education. The Abbey, a fine old mansion, situated at a short distance from the church and the schools, is the residence of the parish priest, the Venerable Archdeacon Grant.

At the Market Square, where the main street terminates, is situated the Court House, a commodious building, adjoining which is the county jail. In the same vicinity is an old and decaying market-house, and also a large plain house, which is used as a custom-house. In a backward street in this part of the town are the remains of a building, which, by some of the inhabitants, is said to have been a college. The remains of the walls of an ancient monastery, called Wicklow Abbey, can be traced in the rear of some of the houses on the south side of the main street, in the centre of the town. This monastery was founded in the reign of Henry III., by the O'Byrnes and the O'Tooles, for Friars of the Franciscan order; the last warder or guardian of this convent was Diarmit O'More. In the reign of Elizabeth we find that a lease of the monastery and its appurtenances was granted to Henry Harington. The Black Castle, an extensive and interesting ruin, formerly a place of great importance, occupies a commanding position on a verdant elevation south of the entrance to the harbour, immediately above the reef of rocks which project in a north-easterly direction from the bold headland. This castle was built by Maurice Fitzgerald ———, to whom this part of the county of Wicklow, as well as Offaley, in Kildare, was granted by Strongbow soon after his arrival in this country. In the year 1301, it was taken and burnt down by the Irish, but was rebuilt by William Fitz-William in 1375. In 1533, the O'Byrnes made their submission to Henry VIII., and at the same time surrendered to him the town and castle of Wicklow. This defensive fortress, the ruins of which show that it was of great strength, was advantageously situated on the summit of a precipitous rock immediately above the shore, and separated from the adjoining land by a deep ditch, which was crossed by a drawbridge. Portions of the walls on the east and south sides are still standing, the perforated loopholes and embrasures leaving but little doubt as to the object for which it was erected. From its position it had a full command of the entrance to the fort, and therefore was of paramount advantage to those who had control over it. The ruin, and a considerable portion of the surrounding land, are now the property of the Right Honourable Sir Thomas Esmonde, Bart. The entrance to the harbour is of very limited extent, and greatly restricted by gravelly accumulations. A narrow tongue, which is a continuation of the Murra, extends across it to within a few fathoms of the land, upon which stand the remains of the Black Castle, and thereby renders the passage not only contracted, but even frequently impassable, except for vessels of light burthen. The resident merchants, greatly to their credit, have been making laudable efforts to abate such inconvenience by effecting a permanent improvement in the entrance to the port. For this desirable object money had been raised, and a plan prepared by the eminent engineer, the late Barry Gibbons, Esq., adopted, and partially carried out. The plan recommended by this scientific gentleman was the construction of a break-

water, running north from the Black Castle Point, and masking a portion of the bay, so as to render it available as a harbour of refuge for the trade of the channel; and also the construction of a pier on the north side of the entrance, calculated to serve the double purpose of sheltering the inner harbour, and of arresting the tendency of the sands and gravel to drift and deposit themselves in the navigable passage. The latter part of Mr. Gibbons' plan was being carried out in 1856; the pier on the northern side was nearly completed in the autumn of that year, and a steam-dredge was engaged in deepening the entrance. The width of the passage between the new pier and the south, or Black Castle Point, is about 180 feet, while at the place called the Turn Hole, which is something less than a quarter of a mile from the bar, in an upward direction, it does not exceed 100 feet at high tide, and not more than half that distance at low water. Some of the old and experienced nautical persons with whom I conversed, expressed grave doubts as to the realisation of the advantages contemplated by the promoters of the project. The principal trade of the port consists in the conveyance of the lead, copper, and sulphur ores that are raised in the neighbouring mines to England. Labourers' wages were comparatively liberal in Wicklow during the progress of the works of the harbour; those thus employed received ten shillings a week.

The opening of the railway to the town must, as a matter of course, have been productive of considerable advantage to the people. This, together with the improvement of the harbour, will, doubtless, lead to results of a substantial and important character, but it will take some time to develop and mature them. Even at this time, unmistakable signs of a dawning prosperity evinced themselves in the repairing of the streets and houses, and also in the number of hands employed in repairing vessels belonging to the port.

Wicklow is governed by a body of Town Commissioners; there are also Commissioners for the improvement of the harbour. The corporate revenues amount to about £700 a year. There are several good shops in the town, a fever hospital, a branch of the National Bank, and a couple of comfortable hotels. Proceeding by the line of railway from Wicklow to Bray, the tourist will enjoy a very rich treat, as the whole of this route abounds in magnificent views. On one side, the fine bays of Wicklow and Bray present their ample bosoms to the view, over which the various steamers and sailing vessels are constantly passing. On the other side, the grand mountains exhibit in their picturesque outlines a pleasing diversity, as they appear in varied forms, some round, some conical, and others peaked, abrupt, and cragged; while their sloping sides display intervening valleys, deep ravines, and rushing torrents, their varying phases constituting scenes of unrivalled sublimity and beauty. These mountain ranges can be seen to fine advantage from the steamer, which plies weekly between Dublin and Wexford. Travelling by coach from Wicklow to

Dublin, the tourist will notice several magnificent seats, and after passing through the interesting Glen of Rathmore, will soon arrive at Newtown-Mount-Kennedy, which may be considered a comfortable small town. The Protestant church, which is situated in the village, is a very neat edifice. The Catholic church of the district is situated at some distance from the town. Riding through the celebrated Glen of the Downs, the tourist will find ample food for the gratification of his most sanguine desire to revel amid scenes of richness and sublimity; as throughout the whole length of this defile, mountain scenery, of the greatest beauty and of the most pleasing variety, presents itself on every side, and excites in the mind of the delighted beholder the liveliest admiration.

CHAPTER V.

BRAY, THE DARGLE, POWERSCOURT, AND CARLOW.

ARRIVING at Bray, the tourist will find capital quarters at the hotel, formerly kept by Mr. Quin, but now under the management of Mr. Breslin, who is also the proprietor of the splendid Marine Hotel, near the terminus of the railway, and immediately above the fine bathing strand. Considerable improvements were made upon the hotel and adjoining premises by the late proprietor. These improvements consist of an addition to the western wing, whereby was obtained a large saloon on the ground floor, and commodious chambers in the upper stories; and the opening of a spacious street, called Quinborough, through a portion of the extensive and ornamental grounds west and south of the hotel. This fine street leads to the station of the Bray terminus of the Dublin and Wicklow line of railway. The opening of this line of railway has conferred unquestionable advantages on the town of Bray. Previously, however, to the establishment of railways, this was a fine business little town, where the bustle and animation, which were quite perceptible, formed a striking contrast to the listlessness which is too frequently to be witnessed in many of our small towns and villages. The energetic William Dargan, Esq., or, as some say, the railway company, within the last three years, purchased the interest in the hotel, and extensive concerns adjoining thereto, from Mr. Quin, and has carried out improvements thereon upon a really magnificent scale. Among these important undertakings are twelve beautiful villas, which have been let to private families, and also an extensive pile of buildings which constitutes what is called a Turkish bath. The latter grand structure is composed of the finest description of brick, and is decorated with elaborately wrought characteristic pinnacles, the chimney shafts terminating in similar ornaments. Nearly opposite this striking and elegant building has been recently erected a handsome Presbyterian church, which is in the enriched Gothic style of architecture, with a neat tower and octagon spire. The spire, which is supported on eight open arches, of oblong character, based upon the weathering canopy of the tower, has a remarkably pretty appearance. Fronting the beach, on either side of Breslin's splendid hotel, ranges of new and unique cottages have been erected, some of which, in the summer of 1860, were

entirely finished, and others rapidly progressing towards completion. One of these handsome ranges, consisting of a dozen houses, is called Brennan Terrace, after the speculative gentleman who caused them to be erected. Seven ornamental cottages, and a timber-yard, were at this time being built by an enterprising gentleman, Mr. Kelly; and eight others at some distance south of them. A fine roadway divides these handsome dwellings from the green sward, which is enclosed by an iron railing on one side, and is washed by the sea on the other. This fine esplanade, which is about a statute mile in length, extends to the base of Bray Head on the south, and forms a delightful promenade for the inhabitants and the numerous visitors to this very rising and delightful watering-place. In the centre of this verdant area, a marquee is occasionally placed, within which the bands, that attend from the city in the summer season, perform their delightful music.

I paid a short visit to Bray in the month of June, 1862, and found that considerable improvements had taken place since my former visit; among the most striking of these, is the great International Hotel, a magnificent palace-like house, of an exceedingly rich and florid style. A new and splendid Protestant church was at this time being built in the southern suburbs, in which locality are several beautiful modern houses. About a dozen fine houses were also being erected in the fine open street called Quinborough Road, nearly opposite the Turkish bath; while an equal number were in the course of erection in other parts of the town. The old common, upon which races were wont to be held, has been divided into lots by the Town Commissioners, and a portion of it enclosed as a park for the recreation of the inhabitants. Another portion has been appropriated to a fair-green, and the remainder sold to the best advantage. The bridge which crossed the river in this neighbourhood was removed, and a new one erected on its site in 1858. The old part of the town was likewise undergoing improvement at this time, ample flagged-ways being laid down in its fine, long, and regular street. Indeed, the improvements which have been carried out here within these last few years, are calculated to excite the admiration and astonishment of the visitor. The tourist who may venture on a description of Bray in a few years hence, will doubtless feel himself justified in designating it the Brighton of Ireland. The town may be said to consist of what is called Big and Little Bray, the larger division being in the county of Wicklow, and the smaller in the county of Dublin. These divisions are separated by the Dargle or Bray river, which is crossed by the bridge just mentioned.

Among the improvements which have taken place here, within the last ten years, are those which have been made upon the Catholic church, originally a plain, oblong edifice, but now a very handsome structure, enriched with a remarkably fine tower and spire; these, with an addition, extending between the end of the church and the

tower, have been appended within the space of time mentioned above. Among the internal ornaments are admirable copies of some splendid paintings; one, that of Murillo's glorious picture of the "Immaculate Conception;" one of Rubens' fine "Crucifixion;" and another, a great picture, by Guido.

The church of the Establishment, which is situated nearly opposite Quinborough, is a building of long standing, in the old English or Norman style of architecture, with a low, square tower, decorated with pinnacles and embattled ornaments. The Sessions House, a handsome small building, is situated in the north end of the main street, near the Quinborough Hotel; a small hospital or infirmary is also situated in this part of the town; there is likewise a savings-bank here. In Little Bray may be seen the remains of an ancient castle, which is in a state of excellent preservation.

The works of the railway at Bray Head are not unworthy of the notice and inspection of the curious and intelligent visitor. They are of stupendous character, and such as required the genius of a Brunel to project, and the energy of a Dargan to execute. The density of the rocks in this locality, and the depth necessary, in many instances, to be penetrated, rendered the execution of the work exceedingly difficult, and, as a matter of course, tedious.

There are several fine seats in the neighbourhood of Bray, and, therefore, it forms a convenient centre for those who are desirous of paying them a visit. In its immediate vicinity is a fine courtly building, formerly the residence of Mrs. Putland, but now a nunnery, she having disposed of her interest in it to the pious community. About a mile south of the town, on the lower road, leading to Wicklow, is situated the magnificent seat of the Earl of Meath, called Kilruddery. The demesne, which is richly wooded, comprises over 900 acres, and is finely located between the Little Sugar-Loaf Mountain and the bold, rugged heights of Bray Head. The splendid mansion, which was erected in 1820, on the site of the former house, from a design by the late Mr. Morrison, of Dublin, is an elegant building, in the later English or Tudor style. The entrance is in the centre of the north front, beneath an octangular tower, surmounted by a light cupola. The hall, the saloon, and the apartments in general, are lofty and capacious; while the drawing and dining rooms being richly and tastefully embellished, and furnished in a style of great magnificence, excite the admiration of the visitor. Before the entrance, and within the hall, are specimens of chaste and elegant statuary. The pleasure-grounds are extensive and very beautiful, and contain within them an ornamental sheet of water, surrounded by a hedgerow of large beech. In the autumn of 1856, a grand conservatory and statue gallery were being erected, and were in a forward state. These ornamental adjuncts, which are in the enriched style of Charles II., extend on the eastern extremity of the south front, which front is in the domestic style of Elizabeth, and was at this time about to be remodelled, having become slightly

deteriorated from its exposure to the prevailing humidity of the point to which it shows its façade. The flower-garden lies east of the new conservatory, and is elegantly laid out, and enriched with the rarest and most beautiful specimens of floral produce. Fine terrace-gardens extend west of the flower-gardens, and lead to an area enclosed on three of its sides with beautiful trees. Within this enclosure, still called the Theatre, plays were wont to be enacted, in former days, by the nobility and gentry who were the friends and visitors of the noble and hospitable proprietor. A double row of seats, one above the other, extend along the sides of the arena, while on each side of the entrance stands an appropriate emblematic statue.

The demesne and beautiful grounds of this delightful place, which may be ranked with the almost unrivalled Shelton Abbey, are open to the public one day in each week. In proceeding from Bray to the glen of the Dargle, the tourist will fall in with Hollybrooke House, the fine seat of Sir George F. J. Hodgson, Bart.; the beautiful demesne of which is open to respectable strangers, on writing their names and addresses in the visitors' book, which is kept at the gate-lodge. On entering this charming place from the Dargle road, the visitor will soon obtain a view of the Great Sugar-loaf Mountain, at the north-east of which it is seated; thence, following the devious windings of the avenue, beside which flows a meandering stream, the soft music of whose gentle murmur has a very agreeable effect upon the ear, he will soon arrive at the unique and beautiful mansion, which is in the finest Elizabethan style of architecture, its pinnacled gables and projecting mullioned windows displaying a rich and pleasing variety. This comparatively new and elegant house is based on a terraced platform, which, on the eastern side, rises about a dozen feet above the avenue, and being overgrown with laurel, presents on this side the appearance of a shining verdant wall. The mansion shows a double roof, whose ornamental chimneys look like finely-enriched and highly-wrought pinnacles. It displays its grand front to the small Sugar-loaf, that rises on the south, and on the sloping side of which is the nice embattled turret, built by Sir George as an observatory, from the summit of which occasionally floats the royal ensign. Before this front appears an enlarged fish-pond, formed by the river already mentioned, the accumulated waters of which, in their fall over a cut stone barrier to a distance of some seven feet, on a rocky bottom, produce a splendid waterfall. West of the mansion, the visitor ascends to the pleasure-grounds, which are eminently beautiful, their finely sloping terraces being closely shaven and delightfully verdant; while elegant statues and ornamental urns, surrounded by the rarest flowers, enhance the pleasure and gratification of the beholder.

On the garden side, the mansion extends considerably; this portion of it containing the domestic apartments and various offices. Attached to these offices is the greenhouse, an oblong brick building, with a surrounding balcony enriched with ornamental urns. Between the

domestic offices and the greenhouse, is the aviary, which contains some fine specimens of the feathered tribe, including the ringdove. One of these was the dove which, as an especial pet and favourite, shared and soothed the prison hours of the illustrious patriot, Daniel O'Connell. In the pleasure-grounds are to be seen a great variety of foreign and native trees, shrubs, and flowers, including specimens of Turkish and Italian pines, cedars of Deodore and Lebanon, with Californian, Himalayan, and Chinese varieties. In the orangery are many rare specimens, some of which are grown on blocks of wood, and in baskets of moss, with silver pines, the saddle-leafed tree, and several others equally curious and interesting.

This fine demesne, which, for its size, cannot be exceeded even in the county of Wicklow, is delightfully situated between the two Sugar-loaves, whose conical tops appear like guardian towers protecting and sheltering it from the assaults of the ruder elements.

Returning from Hollybrooke, the tourist will pause to admire the rich and remarkable residence of ex-Judge Crampton, called St. Valorie. This very beautiful house, which, in its fanciful construction, combines some of the characteristics of the highly-wrought and elaborate Swiss villa, is situated on a gentle eminence, which overlooks the river that flows through the glen of the Dargle, and at this place enters what is designated the "Valley of Diamonds," at the entrance to which it may be said to stand.

At a short distance from St. Valorie is the entrance to the celebrated glen of the Dargle, where, on making application, the tourist is admitted to the beautiful vale, which has been styled the "Valley of Oaks." Entering the majestic woods north of the river, and following the pathway, or avenue, which has been cut through them, the visitor luxuriates in the coolness of the protecting shade, and occasionally halts at the openings in the foliage to enjoy the picturesque and varied views that present themselves. The intersecting river is not so wide as that which flows through the Devil's Glen; but the trees are, if possible, more beautiful, and overhang the bed of the stream on each side, so as, at times, to render it invisible. Advancing up the glen, the tourist becomes sensibly struck by the force of the rushing torrent, which, descending in a succession of falls, produces a continuous and incessant roar. This fine river, after passing through the glen, and beneath the beautiful St. Valorie, already mentioned, falls downwards to Bray, and flows under the bridge of that place in its progress towards the sea. The path, gradually ascending through the wood, conducts to the summit of the hill which forms the northern barrier of the valley. Immediately beneath the neat, hexagon, rustic cottage, with its nicely-paved floor and characteristic seats, which has been so appropriately and so conveniently erected here, the river presents a really delightful appearance. Here approaching the two recumbent and almost kissing rocks, and marking the intervening distance between their summits, which is called the "Lover's Leap," the tourist

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beholds the cascade make its grand fall into the small lake-like basin, beside the finely-gravelled bank, in the centre of which grows a beautiful tree. Arriving at this enviable spot, he realises the delightful picture which the poet of nature, the imaginative and inimitable Thomson, so graphically depicts in the following lines :—

> "Welcome, ye shades, ye bowery thickets, hail!
> Ye lofty pines; ye venerable oaks!
> Ye ashes wild, resounding o'er the steep!
> Delicious is your shelter to the soul,
> As to the hunted hart the sallying spring."

Looking in an upward direction, the advancing river can be seen in the distance, leaping from rock to rock, its white mist, with the lightness of the thistle's down, flying and glistening in the sun. The eye, from this elevated situation, takes in almost every part of the deep glen, and catches at intervals the waters of the stream, as they bound impetuously over the obstructing rocks, which have been severed from the cliffs above and lodged in the bed of the river; and while contrasting their white foam with the dark foliage of the overhanging woods, the observer traces to the left the widening glen, as it gradually expands into a fine champaign country, which is bounded in the distance by the open azure sea. In his further ascent, the visitor soon attains an eminence considerably above the bed of the river, from whence he obtains an ample view of the precipitous range on the opposite side, which forming a gentle curve, and enriched with beauteous trees, challenges his unqualified admiration. Proceeding onwards by the road that winds along the upper ridge of the mountain, and diverging slightly to the left, he will arrive at a table-rock, the front of which rises perpendicularly from the edge of the river, and is rendered free from danger by a rude defensive range. From the summit of this eminence, which is called the View Rock of the Dargle, the prospect is as extensive as it is surpassingly beautiful; while its height above the stream renders the roar of the waters so far subdued as to subside into an agreeable murmur, whose mellowed and musical sound harmonises with the surrounding objects, and awakens such emotions as combinations so rare must ever excite in the minds of all who are capable of appreciating them. Beyond this point the vale presents an enlarged appearance, while the magnificent demesne and palace-like mansion of Lord Viscount Powerscourt burst upon the view of the delighted beholder; in the background are seen the lofty and rugged eminences, which give a diversity, and at the same time a completeness, to the extensive and beautiful landscape. A very striking and interesting feature in the prospect, as seen from this point, is the towering peak of the Great Sugar-loaf, which, as it rises above the richly-clothed woods, appears to look down with contempt on the comparatively insignificant objects around it. The woods of the Dargle consist chiefly of oak and ash, intermingled with holly and other trees. They are of fine growth,

and from their size must constitute a valuable property to their owners, while from their luxuriant and umbrageous foliage they may be said to form a complete wilderness. The lands on the north of the glen belong to Lord Powerscourt, while those on the south are the property of the representatives of the illustrious and eloquent patriot, the renowned Henry Grattan. The Dargle is much frequented by respectable parties from Dublin, and in the summer season it can be rarely visited without meeting happy groups of the gay citizens in various parts of the glen, which is about a mile in length. The neighbourhood of the Lover's Leap, however, has peculiar attractions, as from the sublimity and grandeur of the startling precipice, which is formed between the abrupt masses of projecting rock, and which is nearly 200 feet in depth, it becomes one of the most absorbingly interesting portions of the vale. Having freely indulged in the delightful exercise which this charming place superinduces, and in the other enjoyments that are to be found amid scenes of such romantic beauty as the most vivid powers of description cannot adequately depict, the visitors generally retire to the friendly shelter and repose of the tiny, rustic cottage, where they partake of such viands and refreshing beverage as their proverbially social and hospitable dispositions may have induced them to provide. Passing from the glen of the Dargle, and proceeding along the summit of the rich velvet lawn, to where the car, or other conveyance, remains in waiting, a fine scope of country falls under observation, stretching from the base of the remarkable Sugar-loaf on the south, to the Glencree mountains on the west.

The whole of this extensive tract is finely diversified by hill and dale, and interspersed with magnificent park and woodland scenery. Before entering the splendid demesne of Lord Powerscourt, the attention of the tourist becomes directed to the exceedingly neat and picturesque village of Enniskerry, where everything presents a very prepossessing appearance. This pretty place may be said to owe its rise to the noble family whose property it is, and whose magnificent seat so closely adjoins it. It is situated chiefly on the side of a hill, which slopes downwards to the bank of the river Kerry. The houses are tastefully built in cottage style, while in its vicinity handsome villas plentifully abound. There are a couple of excellent hotels in the village, which in the summer months are very well frequented, as large numbers of visitors resort to this locality during the season, attracted principally by the fame of the Dargle and the Powerscourt waterfall. A very fine Roman Catholic church has recently been erected here, on a site given by the kind and liberal Lord Viscount Powerscourt.

Proceeding from Dublin to this healthful and interesting village, the tourist will pass through the remarkable mountain-chasm called the Scalp—a wild and very peculiar feature. This bold mountain-pass appears as if it had been formed by some violent convulsion of

nature, which rent asunder the dense and massive mountain; while the confused heaps of granite that appear piled upon each other, and which seem as if miraculously arrested in their downward progress, are calculated to excite the alarm of those who are of a timid temperament, as they present, as it were, an impending avalanche of stone. The entrance to the Powerscourt demesne is by a capacious arch, with a wicket on each side, each of which is surmounted by a splendid sculptured eagle, while each of the flanking side-walls is decorated with an ornamental urn. To view this grand demesne and waterfall it will be necessary to procure an order, which may be obtained from the noble proprietor's agent, who resides in the adjoining village, or at the steward's lodge, in one of the court-yards of the castle. Arriving at the mansion, which is called Powerscourt Castle, although there are none of the ancient characteristics of a fortress at present perceptible, the visitor becomes struck with its grandeur and extent. It displays an ample front to the north, from each extremity of which extends a slightly curving screen-wall, terminating in a square pillar surmounted by a finely-chiselled spread eagle. In the centre of these handsome extensions is the entrance to the nice coach-houses and stables, beneath, on each side, a fine arch, supporting a rich pediment, on the apex of which also stands an ornamental spread eagle. The intervals between the sides of the mansion and the arched entrances to the offices, and also between the latter and the pillar on each extremity of the curving sweep, are filled up with decorative niches, which give a pleasing uniformity to the whole.

The grand centre of the mansion projects to some extent, with two windows on each side of the hall-door; while above the entrance are three fine arched windows, which appear between Ionic pilasters, and on each side of them one of plain character; over each window, and also between the pilasters, is a fine, circular, ornamental niche. Above the handsome niches runs a rich entablature, supporting a highly-wrought pediment, in the centre of which appear the splendidly emblazoned family arms, surmounted by the characteristic eagle; the front thus displaying three stories above the extensive area upon which the mansion is based. Besides the rich pediment, a magnificent balustrade decorates the summit of the upper story. The grand centre is flanked on the east and west by a fine, square building of two stories in height, with which it is connected by a corridor, with four windows in each story, and a rich balustrade extending along the top; the whole being in the most elaborate style of English architecture. This grand building displays its principal façade to the south, with twelve windows in each of its three stories. A fine semi-circular projection appears on each extremity of the front, the roof ending in a cupola, with four windows in each story. From the terrace before this front is a splendid view, comprehending within it a picturesque and romantic glen, enclosed by impending mountains, including the two Sugar-loaves and the rugged

promontory of Bray Head. East of the mansion is situated a very neat cruciform church, its finely-rounded arched windows proclaiming it to be in the Early English style of architecture. The wide and extensive avenue leading to the mansion is lined on each side with splendid trees, which are of the choicest beech, and of unusual growth and vigour; indeed, the whole of the verdant lawns and spreading meadows are studded and enriched with the largest and most valuable timber. The visitor becomes astonished at the great extent and variety of the beautiful grounds of this princely place—the demesne comprising 1250 acres, 500 of which constitute the home demesne, that is situated near the mansion. There are 550 acres in the deer park, and the remainder on the north side of the Dargle.

It is only when he arrives at the valley of the waterfall, after a ride of about two miles, that the surprise and delight of the tourist reach their full height. Here the richly-clothed mountains, rising in amphitheatrical form, and encircling the extensive plain in front of the cascade, call up unmingled feelings of pleasure and gratification. The impetuous and continuous volume that forms the waterfall, appears as if bursting upwards from the summit of the iron rock, over which it rushes in perpetual silvery brightness, while the thousand various and intermingling tiny streams, which appear like delicate fibres fringing the pellucid sheet, are alike calculated to confirm the exciting and agreeable impressions already created in the mind of the visitor. The rock, over the face of which the cascade falls a distance of 300 feet into the basin beneath, seems different from those in its immediate vicinity, being so densely solid and enduring as to defy the overwhelming rush of the incessant volume, in all the distant ages of an imagined futurity, to wear it down. The mass of water, after falling into the deep chasm between large fragments of rock, runs in a rapid stream until it falls in with another on the outside of the deer park, and thus united, flows through the richly-cultivated grounds, assuming the appellation of the Dargle river on its approach to the celebrated glen of that name. From the banqueting-room, which is approached by a picturesque wooden bridge, that crosses the stream just mentioned as it runs from the foot of the waterfall, there is a magnificent view, the scenery being at once wild and romantic. It is vain to attempt a description of this beautiful and highly-favoured locality; neither the pen of the poet, nor the pencil of the painter, is capable of rendering it adequate justice. A slippery path, beneath impending rocks, leads to the precipice at the head of the fall, from which the view, in a downward direction, is awful in the extreme. While here, I felt a melancholy interest in listening to the sad details of the car-driver, regarding the melancholy death of an English gentleman, who, falling over the precipitous side of the rock in the immediate vicinity of the waterfall, was killed on the spot. That gentleman, in company with some friends, came over to this country in the summer of 1853, to visit the Industrial Exhibition.

Having satisfied his curiosity in viewing the Exhibition, he availed himself of an early opportunity of visiting the county of Wicklow. With this intention, accompanied by a friend, he arrived at Bray, and set out from thence to visit the Dargle and this waterfall. When he arrived in its vicinity, he was so much struck with its singularly beautiful features, more especially its splendid cascade, that, with a degree of rashness, for which he paid the forfeit of his life, he climbed up the side of the adjoining mountain, and passed across the intervening ledge of rock, until he arrived at the head of the fall. After a close examination of its interesting peculiarities, he commenced his descent immediately beside the edge of the falling torrent, and along the face of the shelving rock, so steep and smooth, that even the mountain goat could scarcely, with impunity, make the attempt. In his downward progress, he endeavoured to support himself by catching at the scanty weeds and moss that grow on the rocky surface; but he found them much too frail to sustain him in his perilous venture, as their shallow roots became torn by his grasp from their loose and infirm holds, and the result was that he fell over the precipice, and was instantly killed on the rocks beneath. Poor fellow—his was an untoward and melancholy fate! In the spirit of amity and good-feeling, he came to this country for the purpose of making himself acquainted with its natural as well as with its industrial advantages; but, alas! he returned no more to his own greatly-favoured land, nor to the dear friends who were expecting him, and who, no doubt, would have felt an interest in hearing him discourse of the things that he had seen. "Alas! nor wife, nor children," more did he behold, "Nor friends, nor sacred home." The distress of his companion and countryman can better be conceived than described, in witnessing the sudden and shocking death of his friend. He was for some time a perfect maniac, and those who were the first to arrive at the fatal spot, and were witnesses of the sad and awful scene, speak of it as a circumstance, the remembrance of which can never be erased from their minds.

Fain would I have lingered here, to indulge in meditations amid the sublime manifestations of Almighty goodness that are so abundantly displayed on all sides, and on the fleeting and uncertain tenure of man's enjoyment of them. The sharp autumnal blast, however, as it swept from the summits of the neighbouring mountains, and bore on its wings the gathering mist, while it sighed through the surrounding forest-trees, whose dry and crisp leaves were falling and rustling beneath my feet, forcibly reminded me that summer had passed, and that an over-lengthened sojourn, at such a season, even amid such beauties, might be attended with unpleasant consequences. I therefore ordered my car, and, while the driver was adjusting the harness, took a last survey of scenes which I shall long remember. Although summer was no more, and all the surrounding objects afforded evidence that, ere long, autumn would slide into winter, still this magni-

ficent place was not divested of its charms; and I question at this moment, if the various tintings of the bright and changing autumnal woods were not quite as rich and beautiful as, and might not even vie with, the gorgeous and uniform verdant foliage of the more genial summer season. In his journey to Powerscourt and return to Bray, the tourist is called upon to notice several beautiful seats, including Tinnehinch, formerly the residence and favourite retreat of the patriotic Grattan, the eloquent champion of his country's independence. His representative inherits and occupies the seat which is endeared to the heart of every true Irishman, by the virtues and great public services of him who found repose from his gigantic labours amid its tranquil and beauteous scenes.

This fine place is situated about a mile from Powerscourt, on the left-hand side of the road, and south of the glen of the Dargle, at the upper end of which stands the stately mansion. On the summit of a rock, at some distance from the house, is the pretty rustic cottage, which was built on this charming spot by Mrs. Grattan, and which, some years ago, was the frequent and elegant resort of her friends, when they came to participate in the delights which the beauties of the surrounding scenery afford.

While in this vicinity, the attention of the tourist becomes directed to a magnificent residence, the seat of another great Irishman, the late Lord Plunket, called Old Connaught. This venerable and distinguished nobleman, who has lately taken his departure to "another and a better world," has left a high name to his descendants. He was one of the greatest lights of the age in which he lived; alike renowned as the profound lawyer, and the soul-subduing orator—a Cicero in the senate, and a Solon on the bench. In this neighbourhood, also, may be noticed a very beautiful house, situated on the side of an eminence called Old Connaught Hill, from which a magnificent prospect presents itself, in which are comprised the principal beauties which abound in this delightful district, including princely mansions, extensive and ornamental pleasure-grounds and gardens, splendid villas, and fanciful cottages, together with picturesque and lofty mountains, and a considerable portion of the deep-blue sea.

Having thus indulged in viewing the most prominent and beautiful features in the romantic and picturesque county of Wicklow, the tourist may proceed to the adjoining county of Carlow, which, from the fertility of its soil, and the industrial habits of its people, is justly entitled to rank among the favoured and civilised portions of the Emerald Isle. This district, which was formerly known as the northern part of Hy Kinselah, and part of it as Hy Drone, and subsequently called Catherlough, is bounded on the east and north by the county of Wicklow, on the east and south by the county of Wexford, and on the west by the Queen's County. In the earliest period of ancient history, it was rendered memorable as being the theatre of strife and contention between Conmal, the son of Heber, and grandson of

Milesius, and a descendant of Heremon; the latter of whom, as we are informed, was defeated at Leighlin. In the year 630, a great synod of the clergy was held at St. Gobban's Abbey, in Old Leighlin, to decide upon the proper time for celebrating the festival of Easter; about which time the bishopric, which takes its name from this place, was founded. The ancient records mention, that like many other parts of Ireland, this portion of the country suffered from the plundering incursions of the Danes; who, as we are informed, in the year 864, attacked and rifled the rich abbey of Achadfinglas. History informs us that a sanguinary battle took place in the vicinity of Ballymoon, in this county, in the year 908, between the people of Leinster, and those of Munster under the command of Cormac Mac Cullinan —a prince who attained greater distinction as the writer of the Psalter of Cashel, than by his accomplishments as a soldier. On this occasion the Munster men sustained a signal defeat; Cormac himself, with several of his officers, and six thousand of the best of his soldiers, being slain. In the same century, the monastery of St. Mullins was plundered by the Danes. Soon after the arrival of the English, for the protection of the district, which was deemed of great importance, the castles of Carlow, Leighlin, and Tullow were erected by Hugh de Lacy, then lord-deputy.

The Kavanaghs, who were the descendants of MacMurrough, the King of Leinster, became possessed of large portions of Carlow and Wexford; and in order more effectually to uphold their possessions, they entered into an alliance with the O'Byrnes and O'Tooles of the neighbouring mountainous districts of Wicklow. As a proof of the importance attached to this portion of the country by the English, we find that, in the year 1361, Lionel, Duke of Clarence, the king's son, who was sent over as lord-lieutenant, caused the king's exchequer to be removed from the city of Dublin to the town of Carlow, having expended on the repairs of the walls and fortifications the sum of £500, which at that time was considered a large amount. We also find that when Richard II. first visited Ireland, in 1394, the place selected by him to receive the oath of homage and allegiance from the Irish was an open field near Carlow, when Malachias and Arthur MacMurrough, Gerald O'Byrne, Donald O'Nolan, and others, swore fealty before the Earl Marshal on their bended knees. Pensions were granted on this occasion to several of the Irish chieftains, especially to Arthur MacMurrough, chief of the Kavanaghs, which grant was continued to his representatives till the time of Henry VIII.

This county presents considerable variety in its surface, the ground being generally undulating, particularly in the vicinity of the rivers Barrow and Slaney, where are formed broad and spreading valleys of great fertility and beauty, bordered with hills which are clothed to their summits with verdant herbage, occasionally varied by fine plantations. To the south and west, the country presents a different aspect. On the south especially, the land rises into a very elevated

ridge, which runs along the whole of the south-eastern verge of the county, separating it, by a strongly defined barrier, from the county of Wexford. The northern portion of this mountain range, which commences with the valley of the Slaney, near Newtownbarry, is called Mount Leinster; while the southern portion of it, which extends to the Barrow, near Ross, is called Blackstairs. The only passage or opening between these mountain ranges is Sculloge Gap, by which a communication between the two counties is rendered available. Of late years a comparatively good line of road has been opened through the Gap, by which a morning and evening coach plies between Wexford, Enniscorthy, and Borris. The traveller who is partial to mountain scenery will enjoy a rich treat while proceeding by this route, as views of sublime and, occasionally, of savage grandeur present themselves. The southern extremity of Mount Leinster, as viewed from the line of road that leads through the gap, has a wild and inhospitable appearance, being, for the most part, covered with detached masses of granite of various sizes. It is not a little curious and interesting to witness the efforts that have been made by the neighbouring peasantry to reclaim portions of the rugged mountain, and to behold the tiny patches which their persevering exertions have brought into cultivation, while the several habitations that have been raised by them are of the very lowest class of human dwellings, and serve to show how easy it is to satisfy the wants of these unsophisticated children of nature.

Advancing by this route, the traveller will soon arrive at Borris, the princely seat of Arthur MacMurrough Kavanagh, Esq., and will doubtless pause to view and admire the great extent and beauty of its truly magnificent demesne. Its rich lawns, interspersed with fine, large, and spreading trees, can be seen extending for a considerable distance, while the placid river Barrow, as it winds beneath, renders the picture as perfect as it is capacious. The demesne is entered from the wide and regular street—which, being lined on each side with handsome houses, constitutes the village—beneath a massive arch, which forms the base of a castellated structure, on the eastern extremity of which is an octagonal turret that rises above its summit. The splendid mansion designated Borris House, which may be called a fine baronial residence, of quadrangular form, with a square tower on each angle, is enviably situated on an elevated part of the rich lawn, and is entered in the eastern front by a bold characteristic portico, constructed of rustic granite masonry, with three arches in front, and one in each of its sides. It displays its grand façade to the south, with six windows in each of the overground stories, and one in each story of the flanking towers. The windows in general are ornamented with architraves and rich label mouldings, which spring from finely-carved male and female heads. North of the mansion extends a range of characteristic buildings, enriched with turrets and pinnacles, perfectly in keeping with its general style and character.

The fine domestic chapel, which is used as the Protestant church of the district, immediately adjoins the grand mansion, from which there is a communication by a corridor. The gardens are well kept, and the conservatories and greenhouses filled with the choicest fruit and flowers. The demesne is intersected by the Sculloge river, a capacious mountain stream, which takes its rise in the Mount Leinster range of hills, and is enlarged by its junction with another river called the Dinan, that has its source in the more northern portion of the same range. It is bordered on the south and west by the river Barrow, with which there is a communication by a basin, in which pleasure-boats are kept, with gates at which lighters discharge their cargoes of coals, timber, and other commodities. The demesne comprises some 900 acres—the intersecting river producing on several parts of it picturesque cascades. Timber, in great variety and abundance, grows on every part of this splendid demesne, and, from its great luxuriance, was, when I paid my last visit,—in the latter end of the month of October, 1861,—being thinned, as the trees may be said to have been killing each other by their proximity and contact. Several large and spreading oaks were at this time felled. On the south-western extremity of the grounds, near the margin of the Barrow, are the remains of an ancient church, of some 50 feet in length, by about 20 in breadth, of rude construction, consisting of a nave and south transept, with slit lights in the sides of the nave, and a window of comparatively large size in the end of the transept. The entrance, in the western end of the nave, was by double doors, divided by a strong pier in the centre. The gable and doors of this end appear to be of much later erection than the other parts of the building. From a gradually sloping elevation in the centre of the deer park, a prospect presents itself of an enlarged and interesting description, in which are comprised Blackstairs and Mount Leinster on the north and east; and Brandon mountain, Coppenagh, and the swelling hills in the neighbourhood of Thomastown and Innistioge, on the south and west.

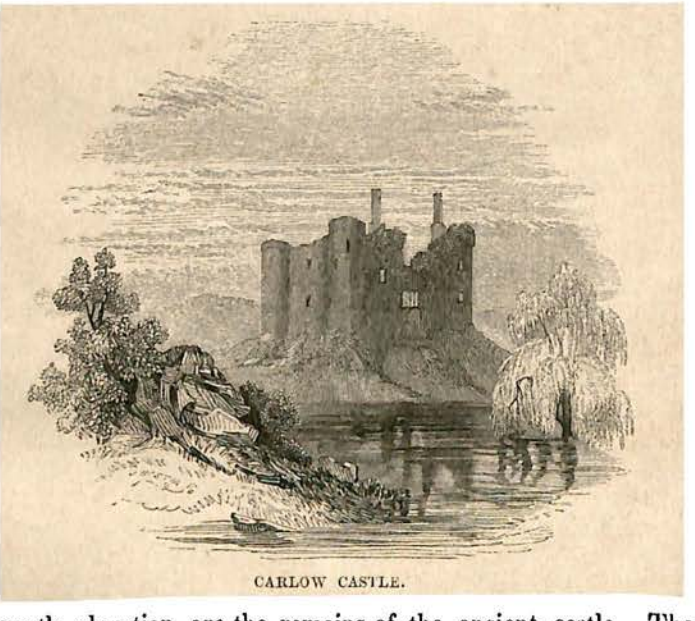
The Catholic church of this place, a comparatively modern cruciform structure, erected at an expense of £2,000, is nicely situated in the centre of the town. The interior is well laid out and tastefully decorated; with a fine painting of the Crucifixion above the principal altar, and other well-executed and appropriate representations over those of the sides. Immediately adjoining the church is a very handsome school-house, which is in connection with the National Board of Education; on the southern end of which rises a tower, surmounted by an open turret, with ornamental corbels and embrasure embattlements.

There is a neat, small sessions-house in the village; and also a comfortable hotel, which is kept by Mrs. Kelly, where excellent accommodation may be obtained on reasonable terms. The works of the line of railway extending from Borris to Wexford, were, in the autumn of 1861, being considerably advanced, as the heavy undertakings, con-

sisting of a viaduct and bridge, were then, with the exception of the parapets, entirely finished. These works are of great magnitude, and consist of sixteen splendid arches, of 40 feet span, which, though light in appearance, are of immense strength, being constructed of the fine granite which so plentifully abounds in that part of the county of Carlow. By an inscription immediately above the key-stone of the first of the series, we find that this arch was finished in the month of May, 1860, under the direction of Matthew E. Talbot, Esq., C.E., who has established for himself a very high character as an engineer, by the masterly manner in which he has carried out the details of this grand undertaking, which, in extent, is only second to the great viaduct and bridge over the Boyne at Drogheda, while, as regards solidity and strength, it is by no means inferior to it. Arriving at Bagnalstown, which, by railway, is about six miles from Borris, the tourist will experience much pleasure on beholding its improved and business-like appearance. The houses, in general, are good-looking, and the shops tastefully fitted up, the whole presenting an air of comfort and prosperity rarely to be met with in towns of this class. The Protestant church—a handsome modern edifice in the later English style of architecture, embellished with ornamental pinnacles, which give it a neat and finished appearance—has, within the last three or four years, been enriched by a very fine tower, which greatly enhances its striking and interesting appearance. The Catholic church, originally a capacious oblong structure, has also undergone considerable improvement, being enlarged by an addition which may be considered as constituting the nave, the former building forming the transept. At the end of the nave is a splendid tower of three stages, with highly-enriched pinnacles, from between which springs the light and graceful octagonal spire. There is a convent of the Nuns of the Presentation order in the town, and there are schools under the National Board of Education. On the bank of the Barrow, in the immediate vicinity of the town, are very extensive flour-mills, which are spiritedly worked. There is a neat sessions-house here; and also a police-barrack, which are perfectly in keeping with the character and general appearance of the town. A commodious hotel and posting establishment has for some years been carried on here by Mr. Ward. The South-Eastern Railway, which, some years since, was opened to Bagnalstown, and subsequently to Kilkenny and Borris from Carlow, has conferred unquestionable advantages on the travelling portion of the public; but there are some persons in Bagnalstown impressed with the notion that it is by no means conducive to their interests. There are four fairs held here in the year, but of late years they have been badly attended; those held at Borris, of which there are ten or eleven in the year, are much more frequented. The environs of Bagnalstown are picturesque and beautiful, and the walk along the bank of the river is a delightful promenade in the summer season.

There are some fine seats in this neighbourhood, among which, that of Mr. Newton, from its proximity to the town, becomes strikingly conspicuous, and with its large and richly-planted demesne, attracts the notice and admiration of the traveller. Proceeding from Bagnalstown to Carlow, either by railway or car, the tourist passes through a rich and well-cultivated country. West of this route flows the river Barrow, which divides the Queen's County from that of Carlow; and still west of the river, extending from north to south, may be seen the celebrated ridge, cultivated to its summit, which forms so distinguishing a feature of the first-mentioned of these counties.

Carlow may be called a very handsome inland town, the houses in general being good, and the streets wide and regular. The two principal streets intersect each other, and divide the town into, nearly, four equal parts. It is situated on the eastern side of the Barrow, and is connected with the suburb called Graigue, which is situated on the western side of the river, and in the Queen's County, by a spacious bridge of five arches. In the southern part of the town, near the junction of the small river Burren with the Barrow,



CARLOW CASTLE.

on a gentle elevation, are the remains of the ancient castle. These remains consist of one side of the quadrangular fortress, with one of the circular towers which supported its angles, on each extremity. The other portions of this once potent stronghold, having been undermined and injured in the year 1814, when an injudicious attempt was made to convert the ruin into a private lunatic asylum, have since fallen. The length of the remaining side-wall between

the flanking towers is 105 feet. The walls are of great thickness, and show by their density, as well as by their elevation, that this must have been a place of great strength. Even at the present time, though but a fragment of its former self, from its commanding position and its stately tower, rising to a height of some 60 or 70 feet, it presents an appearance at once imposing and majestic, which conveys to the mind a tolerably accurate notion of what it must have been in its days of pride and grandeur. The ruins of the old court-house are situated in this part of the town. The present court-house, a comparatively new and fine building, is situated in the northern section of the town, at the junction of the Castledermot and Athy roads, and is a handsome building, of octagonal character, with a fine Doric portico, supported by handsome columns, based upon a platform which is approached by a broad flight of about a dozen steps, composed of fine granite. It is said to be in the style of the Acropolis of Athens, equally chaste in design and execution, and forming a remarkably striking and ornamental feature. The Protestant church is a neat modern edifice, with a richly-wrought pinnacled tower, and an exceedingly beautiful spire, which terminates at an elevation of 195 feet, and is surmounted by a splendid gilt cross. By far the most imposing feature in Carlow is the splendid Catholic cathedral, a truly beautiful building, of cruciform construction, in the later English style of architecture. This elegant structure is worthy of the master mind of the illustrious dignitary, whose piety founded, and whose zeal carried it to maturity—the justly-celebrated Bishop of the diocese, the late Dr. Doyle. The magnificent tower which rises in the centre of the western end of the cathedral, is surmounted by a characteristic lantern, that terminates at a height of 160 feet, with 18 feet in the foundation. It is elaborately wrought, and with the clock which displays itself in the face of the tower, has a strikingly beautiful appearance. The principal or chancel window is very grand, and is composed of rich stained glass, the contract for which was £400. The end windows of the transepts are handsome triplets—that in the south being filled with fine stained glass. The sides of the chancel are furnished with handsome windows of two lights, two on each side; and the transepts with one of the same character in each of their sides; while there are three windows of the same size and style in each side of the nave, and two in each side of the upper part of the entrance in the tower. In the western end of the nave is a large and commodious gallery, in the back centre of which formerly stood the finely-toned organ, which latterly has been placed on a gallery built for its reception in the rear of the north transept. The visitor, on entering this fine church, becomes immediately struck by Hogan's celebrated monumental figure of the renowned Dr. Doyle, who is finely represented in his episcopal robes, with Hibernia, in a kneeling posture, leaning on the harp on the left hand, and weeping for the loss she has sustained by the decease of

this illustrious prelate. This splendid monument may be justly considered a masterpiece of the sculptor's art. The principal altar stands in the centre of the sanctuary, supported on a platform, which is ascended on each of its four sides by five steps; two smaller altars stand on each side of the grand one, receding so as to reach the eastern wall of the chancel. This fine church has recently undergone considerable decoration and embellishment at the hands of some of the most experienced artificers, the ribs of the groinings, and the walls in general, being rendered equally rich and beautiful. Within an extensive lawn, in the rear of the cathedral, is situated the extensive institution known as St. Patrick's College, which interesting seat of learning is enviably and agreeably placed, being surrounded by parks and gardens, which present an appearance at once healthful and ornamental. Besides those who are intended for the priesthood, several young gentlemen of the Roman Catholic persuasion receive their education at this college. This fine establishment contains several spacious apartments, some of which are decorated with rich and valuable pictures. In one of the reception-rooms, above the mantelpiece, is a very beautiful full-length likeness of Her Gracious Majesty the Queen, which is one of the most truthful representations of our sovereign lady that I have seen.

In the immediate vicinity of the cathedral, are the convents of the Nuns of the Presentation order, and the devoted Sisters of Mercy, where large numbers of children are educated and instructed in useful works. There were, when I paid my visit, sixteen Sisters in the Presentation Convent; their chapel is very beautiful, and the reception-rooms are spacious, and very neatly furnished. The Convent of Mercy partakes of the like advantages; the gardens of each are extensive and very nicely kept.

On the opposite side of the river Barrow, in the parish of Graiguc, which is in the Queen's County, there is a handsome Catholic church. The Rev. James Maher is the parish priest of this district. Braganza House, the residence of the Right Rev. Dr. Walsh the Roman Catholic Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, is finely situated on the Athy road, about a quarter of a mile from the town, and is a very handsome seat, which shows to much advantage from the road, and from the nice promenade that extends along the margin of the river. A new Protestant church, called the Bruen Testimonial, has been erected in the northern suburbs within the last seven years, to the memory of the late Colonel Bruen, for many years the representative of the county in parliament. This handsome structure, the site of which is nearly opposite the Lunatic Asylum, on the road leading to Athy, is in the style of the geometrical period of the reign of Edward the Third; cruciform in plan, with a central tower and very beautiful spire, which rises to a height of 180 feet. The dimensions are as follows: the nave, 55 feet by 23 feet 6 inches; the transepts, 64 feet by 23 feet 6 inches; vestry, 15 feet by 9 feet; and porch, 9 feet 6 inches, by 9

feet 6 inches. The Lunatic Asylum, a very fine and well-conducted institution, is also situated in the northern suburbs, and in an open and healthful locality. There are several acres of land attached to it, on which some of the inmates are occasionally employed, and on a portion of which the generality of them are allowed to indulge in such recreation as may be considered suitable to their state of health. Nothing can exceed the attention that is bestowed on these unfortunates; they are most liberally treated, yet the soundest economy accompanies a judicious generosity. The military barracks of this town are small and inconvenient, a great portion of them being taken up with corridors and passages; the yard and drill ground, however, are neat and well kept. The county jail, too, is of comparatively limited extent, and the situation backward, while the execution drop is entirely concealed from the public view. The union workhouse is a very remarkable feature, the external appearance being rich and beautiful. It is composed of fine granite, and hence its superiority over almost all the institutions of the same kind in this or the sister country. The Fever Hospital is a tolerably good house, but it is rather too near the railway station; the noise proceeding from which cannot fail to prove more or less injurious to the patients in certain stages of the distemper. The county infirmary, and also a dispensary, are situated in the town. There is a branch of the Bank of Ireland in Carlow; and since the failure of the unfortunate Tipperary Joint-Stock Banking Company, a branch of the National Bank has been established here. A Branch of the Provincial Bank had been established in Carlow some years ago, but was withdrawn about the year 1848. The terminus of the railway is conveniently situated, and the station-house and offices are very neat, the entire area comprising about 640 feet by 350. A new and wide street has been laid out in front of the station, which affords excellent sites for building, which, doubtless, will be taken advantage of ere long, as this appears to be a rising locality.

Although the extension of the railway to Carlow has conferred unquestionable advantages on the public in general, it is supposed to have operated injuriously to the interests of many persons in business there. To the proprietors of hotels and posting establishments the immediate change, superinduced by its opening, must have been of the most decided disadvantage. The central position of Carlow, lying as it does at equal distances from the cities of Dublin and Waterford, and the town of Wexford, caused it to be a general thoroughfare; and, consequently, while the Cork, Limerick, Waterford, and Kilkenny coaches, in their daily and nightly passage through it, brought an influx of strangers—many of whom, perhaps, were occasionally induced to remain for a short time, although contrary to their original intentions—the business of the above-mentioned parties was remunerative. Before the extension of the railway to the town, and also while it terminated there, all went on thus favourably; but when

it became extended to Cashel, Cork, Limerick, Waterford, Bagnalstown, and Kilkenny, the change was felt to be productive of such results as have been just mentioned. A railway extending to the town of Wexford would be attended with different results, for situated as that town is, on the edge of the channel, great benefits would be conferred upon it, while it could not be deprived of the advantages which it otherwise enjoys. I fear we have been doing a great injustice to railways, by attributing to them consequences that have arisen from very different causes; for in speaking of railways, we should remember that they have scarcely, as yet, had a fair trial in this country, as since their establishment amongst us, we have been suffering from a continuous depression, arising from the repeated failure of our crops. The employment of the people in their construction, however, more than compensates for the partial injury they are supposed to inflict, by the changes which accompany their introduction into particular localities.

On my recent visits to Carlow, in the autumns of 1860 and 1861, I was much gratified to learn that a great change for the better had taken place in the town, which, I now rejoice to say, like most towns of its class in Ireland, is, with the country in general, showing unmistakable evidence of improvement. There are two good hotels in the town, of which the Club-house may be considered the principal; the other is kept by the representatives of the late Mr. Cullen, and is situated in Dublin Street. It is a very respectable and well-conducted house, and receives the countenance and support to which its character entitles it.

The earliest charter on record was granted to Carlow by William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, about the latter part of the thirteenth century. In the year 1613, we find that James I. granted a charter of incorporation to the town, which conferred, among other privileges, the right to return two members to the Irish parliament. Charles II. also granted a charter to the town in the year 1674. The charter subsequently conferred by James II. soon ceasing to have effect, the town continued to be governed by that of Charles II. until the passing of the Irish Municipal Corporations Act in 1841. Carlow is now governed by a body of commissioners under the Towns Improvement Act.

There are several handsome villas in the immediate vicinity of the town, and fine seats in its neighbourhood. Among the latter, Oak Park, the residence and property of Henry Bruen, Esq., M.P., ranks deservedly high. It is situated about two miles north of the town, and is remarkable for the groves of stately and spreading oak which enrich and embellish the magnificent demesne, which comprises about 2,000 acres. This noble demesne is entered beneath a splendid arch, of recent erection, modelled from the grand arch on the summit of which stands the colossal equestrian statue of the great Duke of Wellington, at the entrance to the Green Park, opposite Apsley House,

Hyde Park Corner, London. Approaching the fine mansion, the visitor will notice, on the right of the extensive lawn, a spacious and beautiful lake, studded with nicely planted small islands, six in number, one of them being an interesting rath, whose finely-rounded sides and summit present a peculiarly rich and verdant appearance. The mansion is a spacious, courtly building, consisting of a centre and two finely proportioned wings. The hall, a noble quadrangular chamber, presents an exceedingly rich and prepossessing appearance, its splendid panelled ceiling being supported along the centre by four beautiful fluted columns of variegated marble, of a delicate blue ground, the Ionic capitals being of white statuary marble. The extensive gardens and conservatories are situated south and east of the house, while young and healthful plantations, as well as timber of large growth, abound in every part of the rich grounds.

Browne's Hill, the elegant seat of Robert Clayton Browne, Esq., is situated about a mile east of Oak Park. The demesne, which is also richly planted and of considerable extent, is entered by an arch of recent erection, similar in style to that which graces the entrance to Oak Park, but somewhat smaller in size. The mansion is a fine, square, modern building, situated on a gentle elevation, from which can be obtained an extensive view of the surrounding and very interesting country. At some distance south of the house are the remains of an ancient church, which may have been an appendage of St. Kieran's Abbey, the site of which forms a part of these grounds. In its vicinity there is also an ancient cromlech; and in the neighbourhood of Oak Park, was a small Franciscan friary.

Clogrennan, the very beautiful seat of Horace Rochfort, Esq., D.L., is situated on the opposite side of the river, and in the Queen's County. It is about two statute miles from the town, and nearly opposite Milford, where the large and extensive flour mills of Mr. Alexander are situated. The fine demesne is richly planted, and, from its situation on the side of a gradual elevation, shows to great advantage. Some curious relics have been discovered in the neighbourhood of this handsome residence.

The Carlow markets are held on Monday and Thursday; and there are four fairs in the year. This county has been long celebrated for the superior quality of its butter, and also maintains a high character for the purity and excellence of its flour; while the Carlow bacon, especially in hams, is greatly esteemed in the neighbouring counties. In no part of Ireland, perhaps, is the cultivation of potatoes more carefully attended to, and consequently, during the seasons of the failure of that crop, while in other localities the produce was scanty and the quality inferior, in Carlow the yield was comparatively abundant, and the quality proportionably good.

Tullow, which is only second in importance to the county town, is about seven miles from Carlow, on the road leading to Newtownbarry, and occupies a favourable site on the banks of the river Slaney, which

is here crossed by a bridge of long standing, consisting of five arches. It has been stated that a castle was erected here by some of the early English settlers, but there are no vestiges of it now remaining. A monastery was founded here in the year 1315, for Friars of the Augustinian order, which, at the dissolution of the religious houses, was granted, together with its appurtenances, to the Earl of Ormonde. The Catholic church of this place is a spacious structure, with a handsome tower and neat spire. The Protestant church, erected in 1831, is also a good edifice, in the Gothic style. In connection with the monastery, which for many years has been established here, is a classical school conducted by the brethren. There is likewise a school for the education of boys in the town, under the National Board. A school for the education of young ladies is superintended by the sisters of the nunnery, who have also a school for poor female children. The most remarkable object in this neighbourhood is the ruin of an ancient building called Castle Grace, erected by a member of the Grace family, at some distance south of the town.

Old Leighlin, being the seat of a diocese, and formerly a parliamentary borough, may be considered an object of some interest to the tourist. It is somewhat more than a mile from Leighlin Bridge, on the road to Castlecomer. Leighlin Bridge, formerly called New Leighlin, to distinguish it from that just mentioned, is situated on the banks of the Barrow, and derives its name from the bridge of nine arches that here crosses the river, which is said to have been erected in the year 1320. The town retains many indications of its early importance, the most remarkable of which is the Black Castle, a quadrangular building of great extent, surrounded by a strong wall, seven feet thick, with a fosse on the outside.

CHAPTER VI.

KILKENNY, THOMASTOWN, AND CALLAN.

HAVING indulged his curiosity in noticing such objects as he may deem worthy of his attention in the county of Carlow, the tourist, on entering the adjoining county of Kilkenny, will find ample food for his gratification in the rich natural beauties in which the country so plentifully abounds; while in the renowned city he will find much to interest him in the venerable remains of its beautiful churches and ancient buildings.

There is but little waste land in this county, as even in the most mountainous districts it is more genial and less barren than that which is to be met with in similar situations in some of the neighbouring counties. Neither is there any considerable breadth of bog-land in it; while the coal-fields in the vicinity of Castlecomer confer advantages upon it such as few of the Irish counties can boast. The Kilkenny marble is familiar to many of my readers, and being raised in large quantities, must yield a proportionable profit to those who are engaged in this species of traffic. Wheat is plentifully grown in the county, while the lighter soils produce barley, oats, and potatoes.

Entering the county of Kilkenny from Carlow, by the road leading to Waterford, the tourist will soon arrive at Gowran, formerly a parliamentary borough, near which is Gowran House, or Castle, the property of Lord Viscount Clifden, and for many years the residence of the late good and charitable Lady Dover, sister to his Excellency the Earl of Carlisle, the highly popular and universally esteemed Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland. Here he will notice a neat, modern church, and attached to it an ancient tower, which relic, as well as the ruin of an old and small church, is still in a state of comparative preservation. In the early part of the fourteenth century, a strong castle was erected here by James, third Earl of Ormonde, who made it his principal residence, till the year 1391, when he purchased the Castle of Kilkenny. In the sixth year of the reign of James I., a charter of incorporation was granted to the town, and the right of sending two members to the Irish Parliament conferred upon it, which privilege it continued to enjoy till the period of the Union, when it was disfranchised, and the sum of £15,000, awarded for compensation, was paid to Viscount Clifden. On the right, before entering

Thomastown by this route, appears, within a circle of handsome trees, an ancient round tower, not unlike those that afford so much scope for antiquarian speculation. Still nearer to Thomastown, and also on the right, appears a tall and slender fragment of a ruin, with but little of the grandeur appertaining to objects of antiquity in general. My first impulse was to pass it without notice, but a little reflection convinced me of the injustice of doing so, as, for aught I know to the contrary, it may bear a close relationship to some holy temple or important fortress. Alas! the time may come when the great St. Paul's, or Westminster Abbey, in London, Notre-Dame, in Paris, or St. Mark's, in Venice, will not leave a greater or prouder vestige wherewith to record their former pomp and glory. The traveller of the present day, who rides in the neighbourhood of the once mighty Babylon, or the equally renowned Nineveh, may find as little to attest the splendour and magnificence of their richest and stateliest fanes.

Pursuing this route, the tourist will soon arrive at Jerpoint, or Abbey Jerpoint, a parish, and, as we are told, anciently a corporate town, situated near the river Nore, somewhat more than a mile from Thomastown, and a short distance on the right of the railway from

JERPOINT ABBEY.

the latter town to Kilkenny. This renowned abbey, the remains of which extend over an area of nearly three acres, was founded in 1180, by Donough, King of Ossory, for Cistercian monks, and dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. It displays fine specimens of the later Norman, or early English style of architecture; and, although rapidly falling into decay, excites at once the interest and admiration of the visitor. The most perfect portion of it is a finely proportioned square tower, with embattled ornaments. This famous monastery, the abbot

of which was a lord in parliament, continued to flourish till the dissolution of the religious houses, and in the thirty-first year of the reign of Henry VIII. was delivered up to that monarch by Oliver Grace, the last abbot. Its extensive possessions, consisting of 6,500 acres of demesne lands, together with its other estates, were granted by Philip and Mary to the Earl of Ormonde. On the line leading to Waterford, whether by railway or car, the tourist may avail himself of the opportunity to visit the villages of Knocktopher and Ballyhale, which are situated about two miles from each other. The first of them, Knocktopher, a parish in the barony of that name, and formerly a parliamentary borough, is about ten miles from Kilkenny. This place, as we are informed, constituted the principal residence of the Butlers, earls of Ormonde, of whom James, the second earl, in the year 1356, founded a monastery here for Friars of the Carmelite order, the site of which, with all its revenues, was granted by Henry VIII., at the dissolution of the monasteries, to Patrick Barnwell. It appears that a re-grant of the abbey and grounds was made by James I. to Sir Nicholas White, from whose representatives the ancestor of the present proprietors, the Landgrishes, purchased them. The ancient castle of this place was taken by Cromwell, at the head of the parliamentary forces, in 1649, who ordered it to be entirely demolished. The mount upon which it stood, and the surrounding fosse, are all that now remain of this once noble pile. In the lower part of the village is the convent and chapel of the brethren of the Carmelite order, of which there are at present but two of the brethren situated here. The chapel, which constitutes the Roman Catholic church of the town, is a commodious oblong edifice, erected at a cost of £2,000. In the churchyard of the village are the remains of the ancient abbey, consisting of a strong tower, the lower portion of which is square, and the upper octangular, and a couple of the arches of one of the aisles of the church, as well as one or two windows, of handsome design. The residence of the late Sir Hercules Richard Landgrishe is situated immediately west of the churchyard, In the upper portion of the village is situated the Protestant church, a plain edifice, with a pinnacled tower and spire.

Ballyhale is a clean and comfortable village, consisting of one wide street, in which are some good slated houses, and a few shops. The only remarkable feature here is an ancient square tower, of slender proportions, which serves as a belfry to the handsome Roman Catholic church, lately rebuilt upon the site of the former chapel, which was attached to the old guardian tower. This small town, which is in the parish of Derrynahinch, before the establishment of railways was one of the greatest thoroughfares in this part of the country,—being situated on the high road leading from Waterford to Dublin,—and, therefore, was a very good business place; but now, although within less than a statute mile of the railway station, the inhabitants are complaining of the reverse which, in this respect, has

taken place. Proceeding to the city of Kilkenny, from the Ross or Wexford side, the tourist will enjoy a very rich treat, as this portion of the county of Kilkenny abounds in finely-wooded undulations, which render it exceedingly interesting, and second to very few places in Ireland. Advancing for a few miles in this direction, the grounds of Woodstock, with their richly-wooded heights, present themselves, and call up feelings of unmingled admiration. The grand demesne of the proprietor of these lands,—the Right Honourable Colonel W. F. Tighe, the lord-lieutenant of the county of Kilkenny,—which is sheltered on the west by a genial and thickly-planted mountain, and margined on the south and east by the meandering and beauteous Nore, exhibits features of a peculiarly rich and picturesque description. In the latter end of October, ere dread winter sheds "a browner horror o'er the woods," and while the autumnal leaves, in all their richness and variety of tints, still cling with tenacity to their parent stem, a more enchanting scene can nowhere be witnessed than that which awaits the tourist at this delightful place.

On entering the village of Inistioge, after crossing the beautiful bridge of ten arches, one side of which is decorated with pilasters of the Ionic order, the visitor will notice a small castellated ruin, partially covered with ivy, and near to it a handsome school-house in connec-

INISTIOGE.

tion with the National Board of Education. In the centre of the village, and immediately adjoining the police barrack, is another small castellated structure, which serves as a bridewell or temporary prison. In the middle of the verdant area that occupies the centre of the square formed by the village, which is of quadrangular shape, is a small plain pillar, based on a pedestal of ordinary stone-work. This pillar was the shaft of an ancient stone cross, and bears an

inscription to the memory of David, Baron of Brownsford, one of the Fitzgerald family, who died in 1621. In front of the houses that surround the square, are rows of handsome trees, which present a fresh and very agreeable appearance. This remarkably neat, small town forms the head of a parish in the barony of Gowran, and is situated on the river Nore—of which it may also be considered the head of the navigation—thirteen miles from Kilkenny, and sixty-three from Dublin. It was early distinguished for its religious establishments, one of which, it is said, was an abbey, founded in the year 800. But that to which it may be considered as owing its principal importance, was an Augustinian monastery, founded in the year 1210, by Thomas, son of Anthony, seneschal of Leinster, and dedicated to the Blessed Virgin and St. Colomb. Soon after the establishment of this monastery, a town is said to have sprung up around it, which, owing to the influence of Alured, the first prior, was created a free borough. Milo Fitzgerald, the last abbot, who was afterwards consecrated bishop of Ossory, erected the cloisters, and rebuilt the tower of the church. The priory continued to flourish, and to maintain its high character for sanctity, till the period of the Dissolution, when, with all its revenues and muniments, it was granted by Queen Elizabeth to Edmund Butler, Earl of Ormonde. We find that in 1607, Theobald, Viscount Butler, obtained for the town, which was then defended with walls, a grant for a market and fairs; and in the following year it had a charter of incorporation conferred upon it by James I. In the year 1649 it was besieged and taken by Colonel Allen, who commanded a formidable number of the parliamentary forces. A somewhat remarkable and pleasing coincidence strikes upon the view of the tourist as he enters the town, which arises from the close proximity of the Protestant and Catholic places of worship to each other. The Protestant church, a comparatively neat modern edifice, attached to an ancient square tower of slender proportions, which stands at its western end, and forms a steeple for it, is but a few feet removed from the still more modern and beautiful structure, the Roman Catholic church, the handsome gabled front of which approaches very close to the ancient bell-tower of its peaceful neighbour. The charitable Christian, whatever his creed may be, must feel pleasure in witnessing such an emblem of good feeling and brotherhood; and as he looks upon those gratifying monuments of amity and confidence, as they stand beside each other, he will doubtless entertain the wish that his fellow-countrymen, however they may differ in their religious belief, may, like them, learn to stand up firmly and amicably, side by side, for the common good of their native land. This they may do without the slightest compromise of principle, for everyday experience teaches us that the more tolerant the man, the more steadfast he is likely to be, whether as regards his devotion to his religion, his love of country, or his attachment to the principles of universal liberty.

The very nice Catholic church is of oblong form, and in the English-Gothic style of architecture; its tall slender windows and its angular pinnacles, which rise from light buttresses, together with the rich characteristic cross that stands upon the apex of the gable, giving it a pleasing and finished appearance. The remains of the ancient monastery consist of two towers, one of which, as before mentioned, graces the western end of the Protestant church. The other, which is of peculiar construction, being square at the base and octagonal in its upper stages, stands at a short distance north of the church, and, being thickly coated with ivy, has a rich and interesting appearance. At some distance north of the ecclesiastical buildings, on a handsome elevation, is situated the glebe-house, the residence of the rector, a plain but comfortable cottage-like dwelling. The character and freshness of the houses, including the comfortable hotel, and the generally improved appearance of this nice little place, inform the traveller that the generous resident landlord dwells in its immediate vicinity. The market is held on Friday, and there are four fairs in the year. While here, the tourist will doubtless avail himself of the opportunity of paying a visit to Woodstock, the renowned and really magnificent seat of the Right Honourable Colonel W. F. Tighe. The elegant mansion is situated on an elevated part of the extensive demesne, which comprises about 1,500 statute acres, that stretch along the river Nore, and from which splendid views can be obtained of the various interesting scenes and objects that so plentifully abound in this delightful neighbourhood. On one side rugged and naked rocks appear in striking contrast with the rich and luxuriant woods by which the lofty hills are clothed even to their summits; while on the other may be seen fertile and finely cultivated lands, interspersed with vigorous plantations. The ruins of Brownsford and Clowen, ancient and hoary, are seen to fine advantage from parts of the demesne. Picturesque cottages with banqueting rooms are raised on several parts of these splendid grounds, where visitors, while they refresh and regale themselves, can also luxuriate in the enjoyment of the magnificent prospects which in almost unrivalled variety and beauty are open to them, and which the elevated seats occupied by them so well command. My last visit to this charming place was made in the early part of October, 1860, at which time considerable improvements were being carried out on the grounds immediately before the southern façade of the mansion. These works consist of elegant parterres, or panelled gardens, intersected by fine walks, that divide the extensive quadrangular space into four perfect squares, which are sunk below the level of the walks; the whole being surrounded by a cut stone boundary, ornamented at certain intervals with bronze vases and urns, which, as a matter of course, will be filled with the rarest plants and flowers. A splendid flight of thirteen bronze steps leads from this beautiful terraced space to the entrance in this front. Much has been said and written regarding the grandeur and extent

of the pleasure-grounds and gardens of this lovely seat, and it may with perfect truth be asserted that they have not been overrated or too highly coloured; indeed it would be almost impossible for either pen or pencil to exaggerate or overdraw them.

Proceeding in a south-westerly direction from this side of the mansion, the visitor will enter the highly-enriched pleasure-grounds, in which are situated the conservatories and gardens. North of one of the conservatories is a temple, situated in the centre of a rude grotto, surrounded by crystallised rock-work. The floor is laid in squares of encaustic pavement, and the sides lined with small, square tiles of white chinaware. The water flowing over the rocky roof of this grotto renders it an exceedingly agreeable retreat in the warmth of summer. The fruit and vegetable garden is entered by beautiful bronze, and also by richly-coloured, gates of elegant design; while the surrounding wall, which, on account of the sloping character of the ground, shows various gradations, is decorated on each progressive point with a handsome vase containing the choicest flowering plants. South of the garden is a powerful *jet d'eau*, in the centre of a circular cut stone basin of about twenty-four feet diameter. Here also are magnificent vases resting on cut granite pedestals, and filled with rare flowering plants. Immediately west of this garden is the splendid terrace, that, in the form of a slender oblong, extends the entire length of the western side of the garden, which is a perfect quadrangle of about an acre in extent. This spacious terrace consists of two separate extensions, and ends in a grand conservatory of circular form, with a magnificent dome, which, like the whole structure, is of glass. A nice walk, corresponding with the gate in the centre of the side wall of the garden, divides this elegant terrace. The lower bank contains twelve beautiful circular plots on each side of the intersecting walk, and the upper a similar number of beds of different shapes, all filled with the richest, the rarest, and most highly prized plants and flowers. Corresponding with the central division, an avenue extending in a westerly direction is fringed on each side by eight stately Irish yew-trees of slender pyramidal shape, planted at equal distances from each other. Specimens of the rare Chinese trees imported into this country by the British Horticultural Society, are to be seen in the immediate vicinity of this lovely terrace. The tree, of which one of these is a specimen, and which is of pyramidal shape, was spoken of as being a great curiosity by Lord Macartney, when he paid his diplomatic visit to China.

From the height called Montalto, in the rear of the delightful pleasure grounds, upon which is the ruin of a small fanciful structure, a magnificent prospect presents itself, in which is comprised a large breadth of the surrounding country, together with the interesting and beautiful Nore. The splendid mansion is remarkable for the elegance of its furniture and decoration, the pictures being both numerous and valuable; while the graceful statues that ornament the hall of

entrance are such as might bear a comparison with the finest specimens that graced the best departments of the recent exhibitions. This part of the county of Kilkenny is uncommonly beautiful, and the ride along the line from Ross to Thomastown exceedingly interesting. Indeed, it can scarcely be surpassed for richness and beauty, and cannot fail to impress the mind of the gratified tourist with the most agreeable ideas, as the ever-recurring variety, consisting of wood and water, hill and vale, forces upon him the pleasing conviction that there are few parts of Ireland where the picturesque and beautiful more largely abound.

Proceeding from Inistioge to Thomastown, the importance attached to this part of Ireland by the Anglo-Norman adventurers is rendered strikingly manifest, by the number of castles and defensive towers, the remains of which are still to be seen in the first-mentioned place, and on the margin of the Nore, between it and Thomastown, as well as in Thomastown itself. One of these ancient strongholds stands upon the extremity of a rich and verdant meadow, on the margin of the gently flowing river, in what, even yet, must be considered a very beautiful spot. It is a tall and stately castle of moderate dimensions, with a proportionate quadrangular court or bawn. The remains of one of much larger size stand upon a fine extensive lawn, within about a quarter of a mile of Thomastown. This once grand pile was called Dysett Castle, and is said to have been the birthplace of the Right Rev. George Berkeley, the learned and celebrated Bishop of Clogher, who was born in the year 1684. Lagan Castle, in the vicinity of Thomastown, derived considerable importance from having been the residence of the last abbot of Jerpoint Abbey. This ruin, like that of Grenan Castle, also in this vicinity, furnishes unquestionable attestation of the early importance of this place, which, before the arrival of the Anglo-Normans, was called Grenan. Soon after the arrival of the English, it was created a free borough by Thomas Fitz-Anthony Walsh, seneschal of Leinster, from whom it took its present name. This functionary was one of the earliest of the English adventurers, who, having built a castle here, had a charter of incorporation conferred upon the town, which was subsequently confirmed by Edward III. This monarch, in the twentieth year of his reign, granted to the "provost, bailiffs, and honest men of Thomastown," certain tolls and customs for the erection and repairs of the bridge; and in the forty-ninth year of his reign, he granted further customs for the purpose of surrounding the town with a defensive wall. We find that Henry VI., in the twenty-eighth year of his reign, granted to the inhabitants an exemption from all tolls and subsidies for the space of ten years, in consideration of the sums expended by them in maintaining the fortifications of the town. We are also informed that Queen Mary, in the first year of her reign, granted additional privileges, which empowered the corporation to elect officers, and hold courts, with jurisdiction equal to that of the city of Kilkenny. This

charter was confirmed by James I., in the thirteenth year of his reign, and, notwithstanding another charter granted by James II., continued to be the governing charter. That of James I. conferred upon the town the power of returning two members to the Irish parliament, which right the borough continued to exercise until its disfranchisement at the time of the Union. This town, which is a parish in the barony of Gowran, is situated on the banks of the river Nore, which is crossed by a handsome bridge of five arches, erected in 1792, and is twenty-one miles from Waterford, and fifty-nine from Dublin. At each end of the bridge is a small square tower, formerly connected with the fortifications by which the town was surrounded. The central position of Thomastown, situated as it is between the cities of Waterford and Kilkenny, and the town of New Ross, caused it to be a great thoroughfare, and consequently a tolerably good business place, which, some years since, it unquestionably was. Since the opening of the railway, however, from Waterford and Kilkenny to it, many of the inhabitants complain of the great loss of business which, as they allege, the town has sustained. They state that the commodities which were wont to be brought here for sale are now, generally speaking, conveyed by the railway to Kilkenny, and consequently the money that hitherto was expended by the country people in Thomastown, is now laid out in that city. There are a couple of good hotels in the town: one of them, a house of long standing and respectability, is kept by Mr. Trully, and the other by Mr. Bishop. The latter, although of comparatively recent establishment, is conveniently situated, and appears to be well supported.

The tourist, on entering the town from the Ross or eastern side, becomes struck with the appearance of the Catholic church, which occupies a commanding site on an elevation north of the river. It is an edifice of long standing and moderate dimensions, with a pinnacled tower and neat spire. On my visit to Thomastown in the autumn of 1860, I was agreeably surprised to find that a spacious church, in the enriched Gothic style of architecture, was being erected immediately north of that of which I have been just speaking. It was nearly ready for the roof, and is constructed of fine, hard limestone, with door-jambs, window edgings, and other ornamental dressings, of nice granite. From the size, style, and general character of this fine church, it cannot be entirely finished for less than some eight or nine thousand pounds, and, when completed, will reflect the highest credit on the excellent parish priest, the Rev. Nicholas Kealy, and the spirited people of the town and district.

In the immediate vicinity of the chapel is the convent of the Nuns of the Augustinian order, where a number of female children receive a gratuitous education. Here, also, is a new and commodious school-house, which is in connection with the National Board of Education. The Protestant church is finely situated in the centre of the town, and is a handsome structure, in the later English style of architecture.

It immediately adjoins the grand ruins of an ancient ecclesiastical building, the fine Gothic arches of the wall of one of the aisles of which, five in number, are still entire, and declare it to have been, when in a perfect state, a structure of no ordinary character. There are some very fine seats in this neighbourhood, amongst the foremost of which is Mount Juliet, the beautiful country residence of the Earl of Carrick. The mansion, a large house of long standing, is enviably situated on an elevation immediately above the south side of the beauteous Nore, which flows in a most attractive form beneath the fine sloping terrace, and is crossed by a light and elegant bridge. The mansion shows its grand façade to the north, and is entered in the middle of its slightly projecting centre from a platform, approached by side and central flights of sixteen steps, and is flanked by two wings, on the extremity of each of which is a semi-circular projection, whose fine conical roof and three tiers of windows appear to the greatest advantage, being in perfect harmony with the other windows of the house. The demesne comprises 900 plantation acres, of which about one-third are woodland; while the magnificent lawn, which is nearly two miles in circuit, and margined on the south by the river, and surrounded on its other sides by large and spreading trees, presents a noble appearance, and commands the unqualified admiration of the visitor.

Kilfane, the magnificent residence of the distinguished sportsman and fine country gentleman, the late lamented Sir John Power, for many years the Master of the Kilkenny Hunt, is situated in this vicinity, and abounds in rare natural advantages, which entitle it to the marked attention and admiration of the tourist. The present baronet, Sir John Power, the worthy successor of his lamented father, walks in his honoured footsteps, and thereby secures the respect and affection of his numerous friends and dependants.

Kilmurry, the favourite residence of the late renowned Charles Kendal Bushe, Chief Justice of the King's Bench, also a very beautiful place, immediately adjoins the demesne of Kilfane, from which it is divided only by a boundary wall. A wicket was opened in this wall for the greater facility of friendly communication between those distinguished neighbours, the late Sir John Power, and him who was the finest model of an Irish gentleman, a refined orator, and an upright judge. When shall Kilmurry again have an owner so capable of appreciating its rich, its varied, and its tranquil scenes, as he who has so lately left it, and who has changed its calm retirement for that far distant country to which those who have admired his genius, and mourned his departure, must soon follow him? Peace to his ashes! for he was one of the last, as he was one of the greatest, of the fine school of orators of which Ireland was so justly proud.

The journey from Thomastown to Kilkenny, which, by railway, is accomplished in half an hour, does not present any extraordinary features calculated to excite the attention of the traveller, the country

along the line being comparatively tame, and the mode of travelling such as to admit of little means of viewing it to advantage. Neither is the line leading from Thurles to Kilkenny replete with objects of interest, save the ruins of some ancient defensive castles, which, between the villages of Littleton and Urlingford, strike somewhat frequently on the view.

After passing through Johnstown, a handsome and comfortable village, celebrated for its fine spa, the tourist will soon arrive at the small town of Freshford, formerly called the "Green Ford," in the centre of which are an extensive fair-green and market-place. A large and handsome Roman Catholic church has, some dozen years since, been erected near this fine open area, and, from its size and style of architecture, reflects no small credit on the inhabitants of the town, and the parish in general. The Protestant church, which is of long standing, having been built in 1730, is enriched by an ancient porch, a fine specimen of the Norman style, that is of much greater antiquity than the structure of which it is an adjunct, as appears from an inscription thereon, that dates so far back as the year 1133. This place, which is about seven miles from Kilkenny, was the site of a monastery, founded about the beginning of the seventh century, by St. Lacton, who was the first abbot. There are a fever hospital, and also a dispensary here, and a flour-mill, which is copiously supplied from the river, which flows downward to this place. There are four fairs held here in the year.

About two statute miles from Freshford, is the small town of Ballyragget, which is finely situated on the river Nore, that is here crossed by a substantial stone bridge of ten arches. It consists of one very capacious and handsome street, which is lined on each side with good houses, and several handsome shops, with a couple of smaller streets branching from it. This town is said to have derived its foundation from a castle erected here by the Butler family, and constituted a favourite residence of the intrepid and celebrated Lady Margaret Fitzgerald, Countess of Ormonde, who is said to have frequently issued from it at the head of her armed retainers, to make reprisals on the enemies of her house. In the year 1619, as we are informed, James I. constituted this town a manor, and granted to Richard, third Viscount Mountgarret, the privilege of holding two annual fairs; at present there are ten fairs held here in the year.

Ballyragget Lodge, now the residence of Lady Harriet Kavanagh, mother of Arthur M. Kavanagh, of Borris, Esq., is situated in the immediate vicinity of the town, and is a very handsome place, through the picturesque demesne of which flows the river Nore. At a short distance from the mansion, a fine building of plain domestic character, are the remains of the ancient castle, which consist of a strong keep, with a court or bawn, a quadrangular area of about an acre in extent surrounded by a defensive wall, with embrasure embattlements, flanked on each angle by a turreted bastion. The massive keep, with

its embattled pinnacles, is still in tolerably good preservation, and consists of three stories above the basement; the floor of the attic, however, has recently fallen, from the dilapidating influence of time. The Catholic church of this place, a remarkably fine building, in the enriched English Gothic style of architecture, consisting of a nave and side aisles, is situated on the eastern side of an extensive area, which is entered by a spacious iron gate, with one of smaller dimensions on each side. The church is entered in the middle of the slightly projecting centre of its gabled front, which faces the west, by a richly moulded door with elegant side columns, and an inner column of clustered character, from the splendidly wrought capitals of which spring the four-times-repeated mouldings. The central projection is flanked on each extremity by an octagon pillar, from the bold capital of which rises a nice turret, supporting an ornamental pinnacle ending in a crocketed finial. On each side of the door is a beautiful niche, with a crowning canopy, also ending in a crocketed finial. Above the grand entrance is a fine triplet window, with a trefoil in the head of the central compartment, over which is a spacious niche, in which is placed a fine, full-length figure of St. Patrick, with crosier and mitre. The apex of this gable is crowned with a splendid Gothic cross, with a perforated quatrefoil in the centre of its encircled head. Screen walls, which rise above the ends of the aisles, conceal the junction of the lean-to roofs with the sides of the nave; while a double buttress of weathering character rises on the extremity of each aisle, decreasing as it approaches the eave-course. The chancel window is of the same style as that over the entrance, and like it, the heads of the arched compartments are of stained glass; the apex of this gable is surmounted by a handsome belfry. The side windows of the aisles are of single Gothic character, while those of the clerestory are triplets, with rich label mouldings. Internally, the aisle windows are also decorated with label mouldings. Each aisle is entered by a handsome door, the arch of which is surmounted by an ornamental label moulding, above the crowning point of which is a circular niche, filled up with a finely-wrought trefoil. The interior of this church is quite in keeping with the beautiful exterior—the altars being richly and appropriately decorated, and the furniture and general embellishments in perfect harmony with them. The arcade arches that divide the aisles from the nave spring from massive octagon pillars without capitals. This very fine church—decidedly the best which I have seen in any town of the same class,—was erected in 1842, under the direction of its designer, Mr. Deane Butler, of Dublin. It is 110 feet in length by 65 in breadth, and is constructed of fine, hammered limestone, which presents a very rich appearance. The residence of the parish priest, the Reverend John Maher, a neat thatched cottage, is situated north of the chancel end of the church.

About three miles from Ballyragget, and five from Kilkenny, the

tourist will notice an ancient stronghold, called Foulk's Castle, whose pinnacled summit gives it an air of stateliness and grandeur. The fine demesne of Jenkinstown, the seat of George L. Bryan, Esq., with its strong boundary wall, is seen to advantage from this line of road. Beneath its eastern boundary the river Dinan flows downwards, and passing under a strong and lofty bridge, winds onwards, and unites itself with the Nore at a short distance from the Freshford road. Lord Carlingford's seat, near the Dinan bridge, is a handsome courtly building, with a flat roof, surrounded by a rich parapet with open balustrade work.

Proceeding from Clonmel to the city of Kilkenny, the tourist will notice some strong and extensive castles, which were erected by the family of Butler for the protection of the large tracts of land that were granted to them in this district. One of these, called Kilcash Castle, is situated near the foot of Slievenamon mountain, and is the property of the Marquis of Ormonde. Near this place the traveller enters a desolate mountain gorge, designated Glenbower, where neither tree nor shrub meets the eye. About two miles from where the traveller emerges from this defile or mountain-pass may be seen the boundary line that divides the counties of Tipperary and Kilkenny, which is defined by a wall composed of the loose stones that so plentifully abound in mountain districts. Arriving at Nine-Mile House, formerly a posting stage, and passing onwards through the small villages of Killabery and Grange, the tourist will arrive at Callan, formerly a parliamentary borough, and will feel pleased with its fresh and handsome appearance. The houses in some instances are large, and most of them well-built and good-looking, with a proportionate number of neat and handsome shops. This town is of considerable antiquity, and was formerly surrounded by a wall, and defended by strong castles, the remains of some of which are still to be seen. It is situated partly in the barony of Shillelogher, but chiefly in that of Kells, eight miles from Kilkenny, and about sixty-five from Dublin. The family of Fitz-Gerald obtained possessions here at an early period; and in 1345, the Earl of Desmond summoned a parliament to meet at Callan, in opposition to that convened by the English Lord-Deputy.

It has been stated by some writers that Hugh de Mapleton, Bishop of Ossory, founded an abbey here in the year 1256; while others attribute the foundation of it to James, Earl of Ormonde. It appears, however, beyond doubt, that an Augustinian priory was founded here by this nobleman, who, it has been said, was interred within it. At the dissolution of the monasteries, this house, with all its possessions, was granted to Thomas, Earl of Ormonde. In the reign of Elizabeth, we find that the celebrated James Fitzmaurice, Earl of Desmond, took this town. In the year 1650, it fell into the hands of Cromwell, who, aided by Ireton, besieged it for some days, during which the inhabitants suffered severely. It is not clearly ascertained

at what period a charter of incorporation was conferred upon Callan; but the grant has by some writers been attributed to William Marshall. The right of the town, however, to exercise municipal privileges, and to send two members to the Irish parliament, was never questioned, and it continued to be thus represented until the period of the Union, when it was disfranchised, and the sum of £15,000, awarded for compensation, was paid to George Lord Callan. Callan is chiefly the property of Lord Viscount Clifden, and possesses the advantage of being situated on the King's river, and on the mail-coach road between Dublin and Cork, by way of Clonmel. There are flour-mills here; and the market is held on Tuesday and Saturday. Fairs are held seven times in the year.

The Catholic church, which is situated in the south part of the town, is a spacious modern edifice, capable of accommodating a large congregation. The Protestant church is a portion of a building, originally of considerable extent, which was erected for Canons Regular of the order of St. Augustine, but which was not the house said to have been built by James, Earl of Ormonde. One part of this ancient building, now in ruins, contains two windows of beautiful design, which are considered well worthy of the tourist's notice. The church of the Augustinian Friars, a very fine house of worship, is situated in the central part of the town, nearly opposite the Protestant church. It is constructed of cut stone, and is in the ancient style of English architecture. The ceiling is beautifully groined, and the interior in general chastely decorated. The cost of its erection was £4,000. The altar-piece is greatly admired, being a copy from a design of Domenichino, by an Italian artist. On each side of the altar is a niche occupied by an appropriate statue. This church occupies a favourable site on the declivity of a hill, between which and the King's river there is a neat lawn of limited dimensions, nicely laid out with plantations and gravel walks. A wooden bridge which crosses the river leads into what is called the Abbey Field. In this field are situated the ruins of the ancient friary, said to have been erected by the Earl of Ormonde, which at present may be considered to consist of a single tower, about ninety feet in height. There is a dispensary in the town. There was very little cultivation along this line, and gentlemen's seats are few and far between. These consist of the mansion and demesne of the Dowager-Marchioness of Ormonde, of Mr. Flood, of Lord Desart; and a fine place called Kenny Park, which is within two or three miles of Kilkenny.

Having thus noticed some of the principal approaches to Kilkenny, I shall now endeavour to give a brief description of that city. Like most of the old cities and towns in Ireland, Kilkenny is remarkable for the narrowness and irregularity of its streets. There are, however, some pleasing exceptions. In that part of the city which adjoins the Marquis of Ormonde's castle, streets, at once commodious and regular, branch off at right angles, and contain within them finely-built modern

houses. It occupies an area of nearly a square mile in extent, and is intersected by the river Nore, which, in its course from north to south, divides it into two parts of unequal size. The larger portion, which contains the grand castle, is situated on the western side; and Irishtown, containing the ancient cathedral, is situated in the northern section of the same side, this portion being subdivided by the small river Breagh, which falls into the Nore. The Nore is crossed by two bridges, one of which, St. John's Bridge, a handsome structure of three arches, spans the river, as it flows immediately beside the site of the grand castle, while the other, which is called Green's Bridge, connects Irishtown with the eastern bank. This city, which is a county in itself, and the seat of the diocese of Ossory, about fifty-eight miles from Dublin, is supposed to have derived its name, as well as much of its importance, from the dedication of its church to St. Canice, on the removal of the ancient see of Ossory from Aghavoe to this place, about the year 1052, which had been originally founded at Seir-Kieran in 402.

The historical records of Kilkenny, previously to the arrival of the English in this country, appear to be scanty and imperfect. Soon after that period, however, we find that Donald O'Brien, King of Thomond, in 1173, assembled a large force for the purpose of dispossessing the Anglo-Normans, who, under Strongbow, had established themselves, and erected a fortress. On this occasion Strongbow and his followers fled before the Irish chieftain, and retreated to Waterford, when O'Brien took possession of the castle, and sacked the town. In the year 1192, we find that the English succeeded in establishing themselves here, and in 1195, William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, who succeeded to the vast possessions of his father-in-law, Earl Strongbow, rebuilt the castle which had been originally erected by that ambitious nobleman. Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hereford, having married one of the daughters of William Marshall, obtained as her dower the county of Kilkenny, which subsequently, by marriage, became vested in Hugh, grandfather of Thomas le Spencer, from whom it was purchased by James Butler, third Earl of Ormonde. Parliaments were frequently held in Kilkenny, and we find, by referring to authentic records, that, from the year 1327 to that of 1367, no less than seven august assemblages of this description were held here. The last of these was convened by Lionel, Duke of Clarence, on which occasion the celebrated statute of Kilkenny was enacted. We are informed that Robert Talbot, a kinsman of the Earl of Ormonde, in the year 1400, built a wall which surrounded the greater portion of the town. During the remarkable conflicts known as the Wars of the Roses, the town was plundered by the Earl of Desmond.

The last Parliament which assembled in Kilkenny was held in 1536, and was adjourned to Cashel; but it still continued to be the occasional residence of the lords-lieutenant, and the seat of the

government, as we find that Henry VIII. granted to the corporation the site and precincts of the Black Friars' monastery, on condition of their furnishing, free of expense, certain accommodation to the chief governor when in Kilkenny. In 1568, Sir Peter Carew, with a view of resisting the aggressions of the Butlers and the Desmonds, took possession of the town, which was soon after invested by Fitz-Maurice, brother of the Earl of Desmond, but he was compelled by the garrison to retire. In the parliamentary war of 1641, Kilkenny became the theatre of contention between the adverse parties, and was taken by Lord Mountgarret. In the year following its occupation by this nobleman, a general synod of the Roman Catholic clergy was held here.

The charter originally granted by William Marshall was subsequently confirmed by Edward III. Edward IV. conferred independent corporate rights on the district of Irishtown. In the year 1574 Queen Elizabeth confirmed the several rights of both boroughs; but to obviate the jealousies and disputes which arose from having two municipal bodies in the same town, she constituted them one body corporate, under the denomination of the "Sovereign, Burgesses, and Commonalty of the Town of Kilkenny." James I., in 1608, constituted the towns of Kilkenny and Irishtown, together with the parishes of

ST. CANICE'S CATHEDRAL.

St. Mary, St. Canice, St. John, and St. Patrick, a free borough; and in the following year granted additional privileges, and created the borough a free city, also constituting it and its liberties a distinct county, to be thenceforth called the "County of the City of Kilkenny." The style and title of the corporation was, at the same time, changed to that of the "Mayor and Citizens of the City of Kilkenny." Charles I., in 1639, granted to the mayor and citizens the monasteries

of the Black and Grey Friars, with several rectories and various other possessions.

Among the most attractive and interesting objects in Kilkenny, is the fine ancient cathedral, dedicated to St. Canice, which is situated within the spacious and handsome cemetery, on a gentle eminence in the western portion of the city. It is a large and venerable cruciform structure, with a low but massive central tower, supported on clustered columns of black marble, its lofty pointed arches forming the entrance from the nave to the choir and transepts. The nave is separated from the aisles by an elegant range of fine, clustered columns of black marble on each side, from which spring finely moulded arches, and is lighted by a west window of elegant design, and a range of fine clerestory windows on each side; the aisles are lighted by four handsome windows on each side. The choir is of similar character, and has a beautifully groined ceiling, embellished with delicate tracery, with numerous modillions, and a central group of angelic figures, with ornamental festoons and foliations of exquisite richness. The entire length of the building is 226 feet, and the breadth along the transepts 123 feet; the external walls, with the exception of the gables, are decorated by an embattled range, while the two handsome pinnacles at the west end form neat, ornamental spires. The nave and the aisles, being very lofty, give to the building an air of grandeur and sublimity. In the aisles are to be seen several figures carved in stone, which appear to be of great antiquity; some of these represent bishops of the diocese, and others, members of the great house of Butler. A fine, ancient, and massive font, with a corresponding cover, of the native marble, is to be seen in the nave; this was used for holding the holy water at the time when Roman Catholic worship was celebrated in the cathedral. Amongst other curiosities, a remarkable stone is pointed out, which derives its principal interest from its being called the Chair of St. Kieran. There is one very remarkable feature in connection with this venerable building, which is the tall and slender round tower that stands about six feet from the south-eastern angle of the south transept. This interesting antique monument is 108 feet in height, and 47 in circumference at the base, and is called the belfry; from its proximity to the ancient cathedral, it to some extent favours the supposition contended for by Dr. Petrie, that the round towers of Ireland are of Christian foundation. This cathedral, as we are informed, was commenced by Felix O'Dullany, who succeeded Daniel O'Fogarty, as bishop of the diocese, in 1178; was continued, at great expense, by Hugh Mapleton, and finally completed by Geoffrey St. Leger, about the year 1270. Richard Ledred, who was consecrated bishop in 1318, beautified the cathedral, and repaired and glazed the windows. We are told that the great east window contained rich and valuable glass, for which Rinuncini, the Pope's nuncio, in 1645, offered so large a sum as £700. Bishop Hacket,

who succeeded in 1460, built the arches of the tower of cut stone; and Oliver Cantwell, who succeeded him in 1488, repaired the episcopal palace.

Of the several other ancient and interesting ecclesiastical ruins which are to be seen in this city, the Black Abbey is the most important, and is in the best preservation. It was, when in a perfect state, an extensive and beautiful edifice, cruciform in shape, with a central tower supported on lofty Gothic arches, and ornamented with angular turrets. The nave and south transept are rich and beautiful specimens of the English decorative style of architecture. The church of the Friars of the Dominican order,—who reside in a portion of the abbey,—as at present constituted, consists of the nave and one side aisle, which are divided by five Gothic arches, and are attached to the ancient tower which stands on the east or altar end of them. The western window of the nave is of large dimensions, occupying nearly the entire of the gable, and is furnished with beautiful stained glass. The other windows, four in number, which occupy the side upon which there is no aisle, are also of stained glass, and show some variance in their style and decoration. There are some fine paintings over the principal altar. The ruins of the Franciscan Abbey are of considerable extent, and cannot fail to call up feelings of a reverential nature. The body of the church, though roofless, is still in tolerable preservation, and the lofty tower entire. At the west end may be seen the remains of the grand window, originally of seven lights. These two interesting ruins are situated in the north-western section of the city—that of St. Francis extending to the margin of the river Nore. The rude hand of time, or mayhap, the still more rude and ruthless hand of man, has destroyed all that is interesting in the way of relics, as regards the Franciscan Abbey; but it is somewhat different as concerns the Black Abbey. In the vicinity of the latter there are several ancient relics, such as stone coffins, crosses, and effigies, enriched with scriptural characters of exquisite chiseling. At the southern extremity of the Black Abbey ruin is a tower, the summit of which is approached by flights of rude stone steps. From this elevation, although not so lofty as the summit of the adjoining church tower, many of the interesting objects which abound in this renowned city fall under observation. The Priory of St. John's, situated in the eastern part of the city, is also an interesting ruin. The tower is in excellent preservation, and considerably embellishes the Protestant church, which has been erected immediately south of the ancient church. The east window, which was originally enriched with delicate and beautiful tracery, retains much of its former grandeur, and is still looked upon with admiration by the connoisseur and the antiquarian. A burial-ground adjoins this church, and is enclosed by a neat iron railing, within which trees and shrubs have been planted, which present a very agreeable aspect. Of the modern buildings

that grace and ornament the city, by far the most grand and imposing is the new and beautiful Catholic cathedral, which has been erected on a site at a short distance from the old church of St. Mary's, and the residence of the Right Reverend Doctor Walsh, the Roman Catholic Bishop of the diocese of Ossory, which is situated in the same vicinity. This magnificent cathedral, which may be considered one of the finest Roman Catholic churches of modern times in this country, was commenced by the Right Reverend Doctor Kenselah, the late bishop, several years since. Its length is 160 feet, by 67 in the clear; the length of the transept 106 feet; the breadth of the nave and transepts 30 feet; that of the aisles, 15 feet; and the piers, 3 feet 6 inches; the baptistry and sacristy measure each 15 feet by 10. The Sacrament chapel, within which is the grand altar, is a handsome five-sided figure, with buttresses and piers. In the lower story are twenty-eight windows, with a large door in front, and one in each transept, each richly moulded and elaborately ornamented with side columns and capitals; while in the second story there are fifty-four windows, exclusive of those of the transept, and the great front window. The latter is magnificent in the extreme, and is furnished with stained glass—the beautiful rose formed in the head of the arch being of the most elaborate and gorgeous tracery. This splendid window is of six lights, 31 feet in length from the top of the ceiling to the Gothic arch underneath, and in breadth 17 feet in the clear, with richly-moulded jambs, labelled and figured. An uncommonly rich and finely-wrought cross stands upon the apex of the gable above this window; crosses of similar design and workmanship grace the apex of each transept. The windows of the five-sided projection or apse that constitutes the chancel are of stained glass, and when viewed through the lofty arches, 80 feet in height, which, at the intersection of the transept, support the tower, present a truly grand and imposing appearance. The arches which divide the nave from the aisles, springing as they do from elegant clustered columns, with splendid capitals, have an exceedingly striking and impressive effect. In the early part of the month of October, 1860, I paid my last visit to this grand building, and found it almost entirely finished, the tower, with its ornamental pinnacles and superb decorations, having been completed. The pinnacles that rise upon the angles of the tower are 198 feet in height from the floor of the church; those which rise on the sides of the tower are not so tall as the angular pinnacles, but they are even more elaborate and ornamental, and like the others, end in crocketed finials. Octagonal turrets rise upon the angles of the nave and transepts, and end in pinnacles of two stages, the first consisting of open minarets, and the second, which are richly crocketed, terminating in finials similar to those which rise above the summit of the grand central tower. The oblong windows of the tower, which display a peculiarly rich greenish shade,

attract particular notice, and together with the elaborate and ornamental open-work which appears above them, are really worthy of unqualified admiration. The architect of this noble building was William Deane Butler, of Stephen's Green, Dublin. Considerable alterations have been made in the neighbourhood of the cathedral, one of which is the removal of the arch which crossed the upper end of St. James's Street, and another, the entire removal of the old Roman Catholic church of St. Mary's, whereby this heretofore confined locality has been thrown open, and the entrance to the cathedral and to the house of his lordship, the bishop, greatly improved. At a short distance north-west of the cathedral a handsome house has been erected as a residence and school for the efficient and painstaking Christian Brothers. In this vicinity is also situated the convent of the Nuns of the Presentation order, with its extensive and elegant chapel, 80 feet in length, and 24 in breadth, and its spacious and well-attended school, where a large number of girls are educated and instructed in useful works. St. Mary's Protestant church, which is situated in the centre of the city, is a comparatively plain but spacious edifice, of cruciform shape, with nothing remarkably striking to recommend it to the stranger's notice, save its lofty tower and spire, which are really very beautiful.

The Catholic church of St. Canice, or, as it is sometimes called, the Butts Chapel, is a fine modern structure, of oblong form, with eight windows in each of its sides, appearing between light buttresses, the angular buttresses ending in rich pinnacles, and the eastern gable surmounted by an ornamental belfry. The principal entrance is in the western end, by a deeply-recessed door, the jambs and arch of which are richly moulded, and have a very fine appearance. There is also a door on each side of the grand one, over which, as well as over the grand door itself, is a fine window. The interior is divided into a nave and side aisles by light and graceful lofty columns, with circular capitals, which ascend to the height of the wall-plate. From pilasters attached to the side walls opposite the columns, spring the beautiful groinings that adorn the ceilings of the aisles. The ceiling of the centre is also characteristically ornamented, and, together with the rich and chastely decorated altars, constitute this a light, lofty, and elegant church. There is no gallery in this church, save that upon which stands the organ, which is formed over the deeply-receding principal doorway. In the railed-in area which surrounds the church, are several handsome tombs and monuments. In the eastern section of the city, near the railway station, is a very handsome Roman Catholic church, called the Magdalen Chapel, which is situated at a short distance from the ruin of an ancient castle, of limited dimensions. The grand cathedral of St. Canice, with its interesting adjuncts, and the ruins of the Black Abbey, with those of the Franciscan Abbey, in Irishtown, can be seen to great advantage from the eastern bank of the Nore; while the city in general, with

its several ancient and modern buildings, appears to the greatest possible advantage when viewed from the Clonmel road, in the western suburbs. The Dominican or Black Abbey, in Irishtown, already mentioned, was founded by William Marshall the younger, in 1225, and dedicated to the Holy Trinity; we are told that the founder and his brother were interred in this church. The Franciscan Abbey was founded about the year 1230, and we find that a provincial chapter was held in it in 1267; this abbey, and its appurtenances, extended from the city walls to the bank of the Nore. St. Kieran's, the new Catholic college, is finely situated in the centre of an extensive park, or lawn, in the western suburbs of the city, and on the right of the splendid line of road leading to Clonmel. It is a very beautiful building, in the Tudor style of architecture, taken from about the reign of Henry VII. An elegant chapel graces the centre of the building, from which a highly ornamental range extends on each side, which will ultimately be flanked by wings corresponding with the centre. This, indeed, is an object to be looked upon with pleasure by all who take an interest in the foundation of educational establishments. In this very improving part of the city several nice villas and handsome cottages have been somewhat recently erected; and in the same vicinity a very beautiful Presbyterian church was built some years since, which must be considered an ornament to the locality. St. John's College, a fine courtly building, is admirably situated on the eastern bank of the Nore, immediately south of St. John's Bridge. A very rich and extensive park lies before the front of the building, and divides it from the placid river. The new lunatic asylum which stands upon a gentle eminence on the eastern side of the river, about a quarter of a mile from the city, is a very extensive and beautiful building, in the Early English style of architecture, consisting of a centre and two flanking wings; the whole highly ornamented, and presenting an exceeding rich and imposing appearance. The jail, which has recently been considerably enlarged and improved, is situated in the western suburbs, and from the manner in which the building is constructed, as well as from the materials of which it is composed, it presents features which must be considered more of a pleasing than of a repulsive character. Immediately in front of the entrance appears the chapel, a nice, church-like building, the gable of which is decorated with a handsome Gothic cross; while, attached to the eastern end, rises a lofty bell-tower, also surmounted by a light cross; in the front of the tower a niche has been prepared for the reception of a clock. The military barracks are also situated in this section of the city, and occupy a site of considerable extent, which, being on a gentle elevation, is at once healthful and agreeable. The several ranges of building which constitute the barracks, being of modern erection, are neat and commodious, and are capable of accommodating between five and six hundred infantry, and a limited number of cavalry. The extensive

area comprised within their limits is enclosed by a well-built boundary wall, and contains ample space for parade and drill purposes. A very pretty chapel for the use of the troops has been erected within this area, with other accessories calculated to promote their health and comfort. The Court House, which contains courts for the city and county at large, is a spacious and handsome building, situated in the north-western quarter of the city, and near the extensive brewery of Mr. Smithwick, which immediately adjoins the ruins of the Franciscan Abbey already alluded to. The space occupied by this temple of justice was a portion of the site of an ancient castle, of the family of Grace; a member of this family, William Grace, a descendant of the celebrated Raymond le Gros, was seneschal of Leinster. The Tholsel, a spacious building, crowned with a remarkable turret, containing the city clock, occupies a fine central position in one of the principal streets, while the part underneath, which forms a commodious area, open on three of its sides, and entered between light pillars, is appropriated to a market-house.

There are branches of the Bank of Ireland, of the Provincial, and National Banks in the city. Here also are some excellent hotels, among the principal of which may be mentioned the Club-house, the Victoria, and the Railway Hotel. Of the merits of the Club-house it is almost unnecessary to speak, as its high character and long standing leave no doubt whatever as regards it. In the brightest and palmiest modern days of Kilkenny, it was the abode and resting-place of many who, alike distinguished for their talents and their virtues, were participators in the gaieties and intellectual enjoyments for which it was then famed. Among these may be mentioned the poet Moore, who, as well as Power, Beecher, Corry, and several other gentlemen of distinction, was a member of, and prominent actor in, the celebrated Kilkenny theatricals. It has also been the rendezvous of the long-established Kilkenny Hunt Club, which numbered, and still continues to number, among its members, some of the choicest spirits in this part of Ireland, whose energy and daring in the field of chase could only be equalled by their prowess and bravery in the field of war, when their country's exigencies required their assistance. Mr. Walsh, the late proprietor, after a life of honesty and utility, has been succeeded in this time-honoured establishment by Messrs. E. and S. Morris, under whose management there is not the least reason to fear that the good old house will suffer in its character and reputation. Of the Victoria the author of these recollections is enabled to speak from experience, and has much pleasure in saying, that for cleanliness, comfort, and prompt attention, it cannot be exceeded by any house of the kind in Ireland. The proprietor, Mr. Callanan, is, by his kind and obliging manners, well calculated to make friends, while his good sense, and the general excellence of his establishment, will enable him to retain them. There is a public library and attached news-room in the city. The library contains a large assortment of valuable works,

and, together with the news-room, is open to strangers who are introduced by members. There are many charitable institutions here, among which are several almshouses, which were founded by bequests made by benevolent citizens. At a comparatively early period of its history, manufactures were established in Kilkenny, as we find that in the sixteenth century several skilful artificers were brought over from Flanders by Piers, Earl of Ormonde, with a view of benefiting the town by the introduction of useful works. Accordingly we find that, under the patronage and direction of the Countess, the manufacture of tapestry, diapers, and carpets, was immediately commenced, and, as we have reason to believe, was successfully carried out, as specimens of the tapestry work are still to be seen in some of the rooms of the Castle. These works, however, soon declined, and were succeeded by manufactures in wool, such as coarse cloth or frieze, and blankets. The latter description of goods ultimately became the staple trade of the city and the neighbouring country; but on the expiration of the protecting duties, this trade also became greatly depressed, and has considerably decreased. Various efforts have been made within the last quarter of a century to revive the native manufactures of Ireland, and in these movements Kilkenny, as well became it, took an active part. On this subject it was but natural that the people of Kilkenny should feel a warm interest, as in other and happier days their locality experienced the benefits that resulted from such works. The last appeal which was made to patriotism and public feeling, in connection with the revival of native manufactures, took place in the year 1852, and, as might be expected, the citizens of Kilkenny were not backward in manifesting the interest they took in a matter of such importance, and accordingly they resolved to set an example to the rest of Ireland by holding a public meeting. Happening to be in Kilkenny on this occasion, I attended the meeting, and felt much pleasure in witnessing the hearty and unanimous feeling that pervaded the assembly. I saw some samples which were prepared for exhibition at the meeting, and considered them of excellent quality. They consisted chiefly of tweeds and neat trouserings, of the pattern known as "shepherds' plaid," and, at the conclusion of the meeting, ready purchasers were obtained for them.

Notwithstanding the repeated efforts that were made, and the high hopes which were entertained that a spirit would be evoked throughout the country favourable to the establishment and support of home manufactures, we have seen, with much regret, that, like many similar efforts to revive and resuscitate our national industry, they have proved unsuccessful. After these repeated trials we must, no matter with what reluctance and regret, come to the conclusion that little can be expected from public spirit and public sympathy in aid of such a cause; and that, instead of looking forward to combinations arising from patriotic feelings, we must look for success more to private energy and enterprise. Fortunately for the advancement of individual

exertion, we have the example of the great William Dargan, who, while he declines the greatest honours that an admiring sovereign can bestow, has the public spirit to stake thousands upon any feasible project that may be brought before him. The greatest ambition of this good man and true patriot seems to be that which arises from a consciousness of having rendered services to his country by the employment of her people; and it is his constant study to elevate the condition of the working man by the payment of remunerative wages. The exhibitions of London, Cork, and Dublin, have done much towards the advancement of industrial enterprise, by showing the resources and capabilities of the country, and by demonstrating the genius and artistic skill of our tradesmen and mechanics. The well-timed and valuable work on the industrial resources of Ireland, from the pen of the honourable member for Dungarvan, John Francis Maguire, Esq., has also been productive of great advantage in this respect. Appearing, as it did, contemporaneously with the Dublin Exhibition, and showing, as it does, the excellence of our artisans in their several branches of trade, it has been the means of conferring incalculable benefits on that meritorious and important class of our countrymen, and no doubt will be the means of keeping many inconsiderate and thoughtless persons from giving an absurd preference to English manufactured goods, to the neglect of articles of superior quality which are the produce of native taste and talent. In this age of progress and utility, it is excellence alone, in the several commodities that minister to man's comfort and convenience that will command a preference. About half a mile from the city are situated the quarries of the celebrated Kilkenny marble, which has a black ground, interspersed with white veins. It is considered of superior quality, and much used for chimney-pieces and other ornamental works, and is exported in large quantities.

Kilkenny Castle, the grand seat of the Marquis of Ormonde, cannot fail to arrest the notice and attention of the tourist. This magnificent pile occupies a commanding eminence immediately above the river Nore, which, as it flows beneath its lofty ramparts, and beside its rich demesne, adds a grace and beauty to the splendid landscape, such as a noble river can alone confer. This remarkable castle was originally built by Richard de Clare, Earl of Pembroke, better known in this country as Earl Strongbow. It was subsequently rebuilt by his son-in-law, William Marshall, who made it his residence. It was again, for the greater part, rebuilt by the second Duke of Ormonde, and then consisted of two sides of a quadrangle, containing three of the round towers of the ancient castle. It was several years since partly rebuilt by the late Marquis, after a design of Mr. Robertson, of Kilkenny, and retains the ancient towers, with the style and character of which the additional buildings harmonise. In the summer of 1860, restorations were being made on portions of the roof and other parts of the buildings. It would be difficult to furnish an adequate

description of this grand castle; indeed, with the exception of her Majesty's palace, Windsor Castle, I have not seen any building of the kind to equal it. In several of the rooms are to be seen specimens of the tapestry anciently manufactured, under the patronage of the Countess of Ormonde, by the Flemish artisans brought over by the Earl to instruct the inhabitants in similar works. In the manuscript room are to be seen various ancient documents, including charters and records, which date so far back as the time of Strongbow, the founder of the castle. The picture gallery is exceedingly grand, and second to no depository of the divine art, of a private character, in this country. It is a fine oblong chamber, of 150 feet by twenty-five, and from its great extent, and the splendour of its appearance, excites in the mind of the visitor feelings of unmingled astonishment and admiration. The stables of the most noble proprietor, which are immediately opposite the entrance to the castle, are uncommonly fine, and might almost be mistaken for a nobleman's residence, from their great extent and highly ornamental appearance.

Some authors claim for the illustrious house of Butler a Norman descent; but the one who appears to have been best acquainted with the antiquity of that great house, was the Reverend John Butler, who held a benefice in the county of Northampton. According to this gentleman, the family of Butler was a junior branch of that of Clare, formerly so illustrious and renowned in England. He states that Richard, first Lord of Clare, had two sons, the elder of whom continued to retain the surname of Clare, from, as he says, the manor of that name in the county of Suffolk. The posterity of the younger, after having borne for some time the name of Walter, or Fitz-Walter, took that of Butler, when the office of Grand Butler became hereditary in Ireland, and was conferred upon them as a mark of favour. Lodge, in his "Peerage," does not go higher in his genealogy of this family than the father of Hervey Walter, who was father of the first Grand Butler of Ireland. Camden says that the name of Butler is derived from the office of Honorary Grand Butler of Ireland. This writer also says that the Butlers are descended from a sister of Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, and that Henry II. had heaped upon that family, already so illustrious and wealthy in England, possessions and honours in Ireland, in order to allay, in some degree, the hatred which the murder of that holy prelate had drawn down upon him. After the martyrdom of the primate, which happened in the month of December, 1171, Henry II. passed over to Ireland, and was accompanied in the expedition by a great number of lords, and amongst others by Theobald Walter, who was the maternal grand-nephew of Thomas à Becket. Having contributed to the reduction of part of the kingdom of Ireland, and being looked upon with an eye of favour by the king, he was rewarded by that monarch with large possessions, together with the hereditary office of Grand Butler of Ireland, a situation that his ancestors had filled in

England. We find that at so early a period of the English settlement in this country as the reign of Henry VI., a spirit of rivalry evinced itself between the two powerful families, the Fitz-Geralds and the Butlers. This feeling of hostility induced them to take opposite sides in the celebrated struggle designated the Wars of the Roses; and accordingly, when the house of York had succeeded in establishing its right to the crown in the person of Edward IV., the fortunes of the Geraldines were in the ascendant. In the reign of Henry VII., however, a favourable change in the circumstances of the Butlers took place, and we find that while the lords of the pale in general gave their countenance and support to the impostor and pretender to the crown of England, Lambert Simnel, the powerful family of Butler continued firm in their allegiance to the throne, and the consequence was their full and complete restoration to the royal confidence and favour.

The late lamented Marquis of Ormonde, who died rather suddenly on the 25th of September, 1854, was succeeded by his eldest son, James Edward William Theobald Butler, who was born on the 5th of October, 1854. The death of this excellent nobleman was greatly regretted by the citizens of Kilkenny, with whom his character as a resident and indulgent landlord, and an impartial and upright magistrate, rendered him exceedingly popular.

There are several literary institutions in Kilkenny, amongst which the Archæological Society ranks deservedly high, and affords unquestionable evidence of the learning and deep research of many of its members. Kilkenny furnishes abundant materials for the historian and the antiquarian; and therefore it is to be hoped that, before long, some of its clever men will turn their attention to subjects so pregnant with interest, and thereby gratify the reading portion of the public by an accurate and detailed account of them. From such men as Dr. Graves and Alderman Banim, much may naturally be expected. The latter gentleman is the brother of the highly-gifted and greatly-lamented John Banim, whose works, so true to nature, and so national in their tone, justly entitle him to a prominent niche in the temple of fame, while they endear his memory to every true lover of his country. The inheritor of his name and of his genius, the worthy alderman, has given sufficient proof, by his recently-published work, that he who has been so successful in the treatment of a work of fancy, must be eminently successful when he shall have to deal with facts. The late learned and patriotic Dr. Cane, a short time previous to his lamented decease, broke ground, and in his admirable history of the Williamite Wars has left to the world a convincing specimen of the qualifications he possessed to instruct and delight his admiring readers, and to impress upon the minds of his countrymen the important fact that they live in a land worthy of their hearts' best and truest affection. Within the last three years this sterling patriot and accomplished gentleman died, deeply and sincerely regretted by his afflicted relatives, and a host of true and admiring friends.

CHAPTER VII.

TOWNS IN THE KING'S AND QUEEN'S COUNTIES.

THE Queen's County, to which we now turn our attention, is bounded on the east by the counties of Kildare and Carlow, on the north by the King's County, on the west by the same county and that of Tipperary, and on the south by the counties of Kilkenny and Carlow. Soon after the English invasion, the whole of the district at present contained within this county was known under the denominations of Glenmaliere and Leix; the latter division being constituted a county palatine. When William Marshall the younger—who inherited the province of Leinster from his father, who was married to the daughter and heiress of Strongbow—divided his immense possessions between his five daughters, we find that Leix was allotted to the youngest, who married William de Brosa, lord of Brecknock. Their daughter, Maud, married Roger Mortimer, lord of Wigmore; and from this marriage, as we are told, the imperial and royal houses of Austria, Great Britain, France, Prussia, Denmark, Holland, Sardinia, and Saxony, derive their descent. In the reign of Philip and Mary both districts were united, and the county incorporated, under its present name; the principal town at the same time acquired the designation which it still bears. At the commencement of the civil war in 1641, the party opposed to the government seized upon several strong places in this district, including Maryborough and Dunamase. The Earl of Ormonde, who arrived at Athy from Dublin to afford relief to the Royal party, was obliged to retreat, and the whole county submitted to General Preston; who, in his turn, was forced to submit to the Royalists.

In 1646, we find that Owen Roe O'Neil seized upon several forts and strong places in this district. In 1650, Cromwell's forces, entering the county, met with much resistance, and in the course of the struggle most of its fortresses were destroyed by his generals. After the termination of the revolutionary war, King William, at the request of some of the leading gentlemen of the district, sent a force, consisting of infantry and dragoons, into this part of the county, portions of which were stationed at the Castle of Lea.

Proceeding to Maryborough by the route leading to Stradbally, the

tourist will soon arrive at Timahoe, a handsome village situated in the parish of Fosey and barony of Cullinagh, about four or five miles from Stradbally, on the road to Ballinakill. It takes its name from a monastery founded here by St. Mochoe, or Mochua, who, according to Archdall, and some other writers, died in the latter part of the fifth century, but who, Dr. Petrie states, departed this life in the sixth century. This monastery was destroyed by fire in the year 1142, and was afterwards restored by the O'Mores. There are still some slight remains of the building; near which is one of the round towers, which differs but little from the generality of these structures, save in the style of its doorway, which is very beautiful, and considered one of the finest in Ireland of its kind. It greatly resembles that of the Tower of Kildare, and, like it, is about 15 feet from the ground. The account given by Dr. Petrie of the details and elaborate ornaments of this remarkable doorway is deserving of the attention of all who take an interest in the architectural peculiarities of these antique monuments. The height of this tower, at present, is 33 feet; it is 53 feet in circumference, and the walls are 4 feet 4 inches thick. It consisted originally of several stories, with distinct rests for the floors. A castle, the ruins of which form a very interesting and picturesque feature, was erected here in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, by a member of the Cosby family, who, on the dissolution of the monasteries, obtained extensive grants of abbey lands in this neighbourhood.

Maryborough, the capital and assize town of the county—formerly a parliamentary borough—is situated on a river, which is a tributary of the Barrow, about eleven miles from Athy, and forty from Dublin. It derives its name from Mary Tudor, Queen of England, who was the first to reduce this part of the country to shire-ground, and became an object of considerable importance to the government at that period, on account of its proximity to the strong fortress which had been erected for the purpose of enforcing obedience to the crown of England—this portion of the county having been previously reduced by the Earl of Sussex, Lord-deputy. A charter of incorporation was granted to the inhabitants by Queen Elizabeth, which conferred upon them privileges similar to those enjoyed by the inhabitants of Naas, Drogheda, and Dundalk, including the right of sending two members to the Irish parliament, which continued to be exercised up to the time of the Union. We find that in the year 1648, the fortress of Maryborough was in the possession of the confederate Catholics, but was retaken the following year by Audley, Earl of Castlehaven. In 1650, it was taken possession of by the parliamentary generals, Reynolds and Hewson, by whom it was dismantled. Maryborough is a reasonably good town, and must have derived considerable advantages from the opening of the railway, for which it forms an important traffic station. At the time I paid my last visit, it was rendered somewhat livelier than usual, as the county

militia—a rifle corps—was then stationed there. The court-house, a handsome building, is situated in the centre of the town, and shows its neat front, consisting of a centre and two wings, to the principal or main street. The market-square, a large open area, in the centre of which is the neat small market-house, is situated in the western end of the town; and in the same vicinity is situated the Protestant church—a good solid building, which may be considered a blending of the later Norman style with that of the English; from the summit of its square characteristic tower rises a plain cross. The military barracks, which are situated in this quarter of the town, occupy an open and healthful site, and are calculated to afford accommodation to about one company of infantry. The Catholic church is situated in the north-western part of the town, and is a substantial structure, in the English transition style, constructed of dressed limestone. It is entered in the slightly projecting centre of its gabled front by a spacious door, over which are three handsome Gothic windows, and above them an equal number of oblong niches, in which are placed evangelical busts. There is also a door in each extremity of the front beyond the central projection, and above it a handsome window, over which is a niche occupied by a saintly figure. A double row of windows, of Norman character, appear on each side of the church; a bold stone stringcourse running above the finely-rounded arches of the lower tier. Adjoining the church, is the convent of the Nuns of the Presentation order; and in the same vicinity, the new and handsome school of the Christian Brothers. In these schools large numbers of male and female children are educated. In this part of the town the visitor will notice an ancient churchyard, in which is the ruin of a square embattled tower, which formed the western tower of a church, the line of the highly-pitched roof being perfectly visible on its eastern side. Opposite to this churchyard, and only divided from it by one of the backward streets, may be seen what appears to have been a strongly-enclosed fortress, the surrounding walls on two of its sides being of considerable height and great strength. A strong semicircular bastion lends its massive and effectual support to the steepest portion of the walls. These potent defensive appendages were doubtless parts of the important and demolished castle already alluded to. The county jail, erected in 1830, at an expense of £18,500, is situated in the south-eastern suburbs, and is a very fine building of its class. The county infirmary, with an attached dispensary—a large building of three stories—opened in 1808, stands immediately opposite the jail. In this fine open part of the suburbs, nearly adjoining the infirmary, is situated the district lunatic asylum, which was erected at an expense of £25,000—including the purchase of land and the cost of furniture. A lucrative trade is carried on here in flour, which is manufactured in large quantities in the extensive mills that are worked in the vicinity of the town. The market is held on Thursday, and there

are eight fairs in the year. The principal hotel, an excellent establishment, kept by Mr. McEvoy, is situated in the main street, nearly opposite the Court House; this enterprising man of business is also the proprietor of the well-conducted refreshment rooms at the Maryborough railway station.

The tourist, while in this neighbourhood, will doubtless avail himself of the opportunity to pay a visit to the celebrated fort of Dunamase, which is situated about four miles from Maryborough. This renowned fortress occupies the summit of a rock which rises in the centre of an extensive plain. The site of this striking object, so well suited for defence, stands detached from the neighbouring chain of hills for which this county is so remarkable. Being very steep,

ROCK OF DUNAMASE.

and about 200 feet in height, it was naturally inaccessible on all sides but that of the south-west. It was, from a remote period, the residence of the O'Mores, of Leix, and subsequently of Dermot MacMurrough, King of Leinster. It afterwards passed, with the rest of the property of that king, to the Earl of Pembroke, surnamed Strongbow, who married his daughter and favourite child, Eva. It next became vested in William de Brosa, lord of Brecknock, who married one of the daughters of the last Earl of Pembroke, and granddaughter of Earl Strongbow. It was this lord who, about the year 1250, built the castle, and made it the foundation of a strong and regular fortress. Few places could be better suited for a military fort, as its peculiar formation and insulated position conferred upon it great natural advantages, and therefore it became at an early period a stronghold of the Irish. In 1264, we find that Maurice Fitz-Gerald held the possession of this fortress, and having seized upon the persons of the Lord-Justice and other members of the government, he caused them to be imprisoned in the castle, and in the neighbouring castle of Lea. In the latter end of the reign of Edward II., the castle and fortress became the property of Lord Mortimer, who married the only daughter of Lord Brecknock. This nobleman, who preferred residing on his estates in England, intrusted the management of his estate in Leix to Lysagh O'More, a native chieftain; but O'More shortly after

assumed the ownership of the property, and, as an independent chief, took no less than eight castles in the course of one evening, and having destroyed Dunamase, recovered the whole country. After some time O'More was subdued; but in 1346 he again threw off all subjection to the English government. On this occasion Lord Walter Birmingham and the Earl of Kildare entered his country with fire and sword, and at Athy obliged him to acknowledge that he held his lands under Lord Roger Mortimer. For more than two centuries afterwards Dunamase—which was increased in strength by Lord Mortimer, who raised additional fortifications—became an object of contention between the English and the native chieftains, and, after various vicissitudes, was ultimately taken by the parliamentary generals, Hewson and Reynolds, by whom it was completely demolished. The interior of this stronghold consisted of an outer and inner court, the whole defended by walls of great thickness surrounding the summit of the hill, which is more than a thousand feet in circuit—these walls being fortified at intervals with towers—while the sole entrance, which was on the south-west, was through a barbican or watch-tower communicating by a drawbridge that crossed the ditch, which surrounded so much of the hill as was accessible, with the interior of the fortress. The ruin of the keep, in which was the chapel, occupies the highest portion of the mount, while adjoining it are the remains of the state apartments, 72 feet in length, and 21 in breadth. The coarse and rugged aspect of the rock has been considerably subdued, and its general appearance improved, by Sir John Parnell, who caused it to be planted with trees. He also erected a banqueting-room on the eastern side of it.

Should the tourist be desirous of paying a visit to Mountrath, he may avail himself of the railway, whereby, in an inconsiderably short space of time, he will be conveyed to the station, which is about three miles from it, and from which a public car starts for the town immediately on the arrival of the train. This is by no means a flourishing town—a fact which the decaying state of the houses in many parts of it renders at once apparent to the stranger. That it was at one time a place of reasonably good business, is equally apparent from the character of the streets, which are wide and regular, and from the style of the houses, which appear to have been pretty much in keeping with them. The market-house, a plain, small structure, is situated about the centre of the main street, where on Saturday the market is held. The Protestant church is situated in the western end of this street, and is a plain, substantial, cruciform edifice, with a characteristic tower and spire. In this part of the town, immediately opposite the church, is a small Wesleyan Methodist chapel. The Catholic church, a plain structure of some seventy years' standing, and cruciform construction, is situated in Coote Street, in the southern part of the town. Adjoining this church is the female National school, where the education of the children is superintended by the good Nuns of the order of

St. Bridget. The convent of the pious sisters of this ancient order is also in the immediate vicinity of the church, where respectable young ladies are taken as boarders, and a liberal and elegant course of education is inculcated by these accomplished nuns. There is a school for boys, under the National Board, in the main street. There are a couple of hotels in the town; the proprietors of which were complaining of the injury they had sustained by the opening of the railway to their neighbourhood. Mountrath, as well as many other small towns, has unquestionably suffered from the introduction of railways; but the owners of hotels are more immediately affected by the changes superinduced by them. The great facility which this mode of travelling affords, enables commercial men to transact their business in a comparatively short space of time, and therefore, these heretofore excellent customers rarely stop in small towns for the night; while the distance of this place from the line deprives it of the advantage which many other towns enjoy at the hands of tourists and pleasure-seekers, who, if it were more conveniently situated, might be induced to pay it a visit, and make it a resting-place. The manufacture of iron was extensively carried on here, until the neighbouring woods were consumed; and on its decline the manufacture of cotton was established, which, as well as the weaving of stuff, that was at one time pretty extensively in operation, declined also.

This town may be said to owe its existence to the ancestor of Sir Charles Henry Coote, premier baronet of Ireland, who is the owner of the property on which it stands. So early as the seventeenth century, Sir Charles Coote became possessed of extensive estates in this part of Ireland, on a part of which he very soon laid the foundation of the present town; and, in 1628, obtained for the inhabitants a grant of two weekly markets and two annual fairs. His son Charles, at the Restoration, was created Earl of Mountrath, which title, on the decease of Charles Henry, in 1802, became extinct. Ballyfin House, the fine residence of the present proprietor, is situated a few miles from the town, and is surrounded by a magnificent demesne, with extensive pleasure-grounds, portions of which, sloping in a downward direction, overlook a beautiful lake, while other parts rise into fine undulating hills, the sides and summits of which are covered with rich plantations. The elegant mansion is entered beneath a portico formed by columns of the Ionic order. The interior is fitted up in the most superb and costly style, and is enriched and ornamented with rare specimens of paintings, statues, busts, and other articles of *vertu*. The saloon and ball-room are splendid apartments, and the library, an equally fine room, contains a large collection of the best ancient and modern works. The pavement of the great hall was brought from Rome, and several of the marble tables from Naples. Many of the articles of furniture were executed for George IV., when Prince of Wales, and were purchased by the present proprietor. Some of the chairs, it is said, cost as much as fifty pounds each.

While sojourning at Maryborough, the tourist, should he feel so disposed, can avail himself of the public car, which starts for Abbeyleix twice each day, to pay a visit to that town, which is situated on the borders of the Queen's County. It takes its name from an abbey founded here in the year 600, and from the adjoining county, which was called Leix. The ancient abbey, having fallen into decay, was refounded, in 1183, by O'More, one of the native chieftains, who dedicated it to the Blessed Virgin, and placed in it a number of monks of the Cistercian order, from Baltinglass, in the county of Wicklow. Of this abbey there are now no visible remains. Abbeyleix consists of one long and wide street, in the centre of which is the neat market-house, built by Lord de Vesci, on either side of which is a capacious roadway. This town reminds the traveller of the town of Newtonbarry, in the county of Wexford, which it greatly resembles in its ample width of street, in part of which, like that town, a fine row of trees grow. The Protestant church, which is situated in the south end of the town, is a handsome modern edifice, in the later English style, with a neat pinnacled tower, from which rises a light and graceful spire. Ornamental buttresses, ending in pinnacles, rise on each of the four angles, and on the sides of the building, between which appear the slender windows, six on each side. In the eastern end of the church is a very fine triplet window.

The school-house, near the church, built by Lord de Vesci, is a neat ornamental cottage, in the true Elizabethan style, and presents a very striking and interesting appearance. The Catholic church, which is in the north end of the town, is a good house of worship, of oblong form, with a very handsome tower, the angles of which are decorated with pinnacles, and each of the four sides, between the pinnacles, enriched with a Gothic cross; from the summit of the tower rises a well-proportioned and graceful spire. The side walls of the church are supported by strong graduating buttresses, between which appear the windows, which are of elliptic Gothic shape. The convent of the Nuns of the order of St. Bridget immediately adjoins the church, and the surrounding cemetery. These pious ladies, like those of their order at Mountrath, take charge of a limited number of young ladies as boarders, while they also attend, with their characteristic charity, to the poor female children of the town. The Court House, a handsome edifice, is situated in the centre of the town. In the same vicinity is the "De Vesci Arms Hotel," an excellent and well-arranged establishment, kept by Mr. Morrissey, to which extensive posting is attached. On the western side of the capacious street, the visitor's attention becomes directed to a group of very nice houses, in the Elizabethan style of architecture, four in number, which at this time had but recently been erected by the owner of the property on which the town is situated, Lord de Vesci These very beautiful houses, with their finely ornamented granite fronts, would be considered handsome features in towns of a higher class: The

late Lord Viscount de Vesci, who died about five years since, was proverbial for his charity and benevolence; and it was truly gratifying to hear of the repeated acts of his uniform kindness and liberality that were detailed by many persons in the town of Abbeyleix and its vicinity. He allowed pensions to several of the old and infirm who resided on his property, and, in his genuine beneficence, he made no distinction as regarded the religion of the recipients of his bounty. There are some fine seats in this neighbourhood, among which may be mentioned Heywood, the residence of Miss Trench, which is considered one of the most interesting and charming spots for its extent in the Queen's County. The greatest feature, however, in this part of the county is the magnificent seat of Lord de Vesci, the principal entrance to which is about a mile from the town. The fine stately mansion, called Abbeyleix House, is a quadrangular building, of ample proportions, and of many years' standing. It is four stories in height above the basement, and contains many spacious apartments. The stairs, from the basement to the attic, are of cut stone, and on the summit is a cistern, from which a supply of water can be obtained in case of fire. There are some very fine family pictures in the hall. The view from the upper windows of the mansion is extensive and beautiful, including the widely-spreading lawns, the intersecting river Nore, which, in its downward progress from its source in the Slieve Bloom mountains, winds through the grounds in a pleasing serpentine form, and the deer park, consisting of 100 acres, entirely covered with the finest oak. The timber on this park, by a recent valuation, has been estimated at a sum exceeding £20,000. The surrounding demesne is of considerable extent, comprising within it about 1,340 acres. The gardens comprise over seven acres, upon which sixteen men are constantly employed, under the direction and supervision of the head gardener, who resides in a neat cottage in the principal garden. In the flower-garden, which adjoins what was once the site of the old abbey, is the tomb of the celebrated chieftain, Malachie O'More, with an appropriate inscription. There is a church of limited dimensions, and long standing, near the mansion, which is occasionally used by the family as a domestic chapel. We find that, in the fifth year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the abbey, and some of its possessions, which were of considerable extent, were granted to Thomas, Earl of Ormonde, but they now form part of the estate of Lord de Vesci. Approaching the mansion by the ordinary avenue, the visitor passes the forester's lodge, a handsome rustic cottage; and in another part of the demesne, not far from the ice-house, is the residence of the steward, a handsome slated cottage. In the intervening space between the demesne and the town are several nice cottages, which are occupied by persons in the employment of the noble proprietor. The beautiful terrace and exceedingly lovely parterre, which lie before the south front of the mansion, excite the attention and call forth the admi-

ration of the visitor. These unique and finely-executed specimens of artistic horticultural skill, owe their existence to the refined imagination and exquisite taste of the Countess of Pembroke, mother of the present Viscountess de Vesci. They are laid out with the greatest nicety and care, the intersecting walks being composed of fine white pulverised freestone, while the flower-beds are formed into a variety of figures, and filled with the most rare and highly-valued plants and flowers, the whole being enriched and ornamented with urns, vases, and the finest statuary. The general character and contour of this well-designed and elegant parterre, present features of the true Italian garden style, which are strikingly exemplified in the chaste, classic, and eminently beautiful statues, which are modelled from the purest Italian specimens.

Returning to Maryborough, the tourist, again availing himself of the railway, can at once proceed to Portarlington, which town is pleasantly situated on the banks of the river Barrow, by which it is divided, leaving one part of it in the King's County, and the other and more important portion in the Queen's County. It takes its name from Lord Arlington, to whom, together with a large portion of the surrounding country, it was granted by Charles II. Lord Arlington assigned his interest in the town to Sir Patrick Trant, who, being a supporter of James II., his possessions became forfeited to the crown, and were granted by William III. to General Rouvigny, whom he also created Earl of Galway. The new proprietor, soon after his assumption of the property, established here a colony of French and Flemish Protestant refugees, many of whose descendants are still living in the town. It subsequently became, by purchase, the property of the Dawson family, now earls of Portarlington, under whose management it has attained a considerable degree of prosperity. It is entered on the south by a fine open street, which leads to the market-square in the centre of the town. From thence a good street branches in a westerly direction, and crossing the river by a bridge of eight arches, leads to that part of the town which is situated in the King's County. The river, as it sweeps in an ample curve round that portion of the town which is situated in the Queen's County, is crossed by another bridge, in the short street that, branching from the north side of the market-square, leads to the Edenderry road. The streets are spacious and regular, and the houses being well built, give to the town an appearance superior to most others of its class. Portarlington is chiefly inhabited by private families, and forms a convenient and agreeable residence for such, as its scholastic establishments afford every facility for the education of youth; it is also well supplied with water. There are two markets held here in the week, one on Wednesday, and the other on Saturday. These markets are well supplied with the necessaries of life, including butcher's meat; the shambles, which are remarkably neat, being kept in the underneath part of the market-house, which is situated at the

market-square. The Assembly-room is in the upper part of this building. There are eight fairs held here in the year. The general business of the town is not in keeping with its appearance, and the shops, as well as being few in number, are, in their style and character, inferior to those which are to be seen in many of the neighbouring towns. The shopkeepers complain of the conduct pursued by the gentry who reside in the town and neighbourhood, who, as they state, are in the habit of drawing their groceries, and many other articles, from Dublin, which the facilities afforded by the railway enable them to do; if this be so, it is no wonder that the business of the town should be at a discount.

The Catholic church is situated in that part of the town which extends into the parish of Clonehorke, barony of Upper Philipstown, King's County. It is a new building, in the later English style of architecture, about 100 feet in length, 40 feet in breadth, and 50 in height. A handsome pinnacled and embattled tower, of four distinct stages, which are defined by graduating buttresses, is attached to the western end of the church, and, rising to a height of 70 feet, supports the elegant octagonal spire, 73 feet high. The building is constructed of a fine light-coloured stone, the spire being of the same material, hammered and dressed. The principal entrance is in the centre of the tower, beneath a slightly receding arch, above which, in the second story, is a handsome Gothic window. On each side of the tower, a neat porch, with a characteristic door, rises to the height of the first story; while strong buttresses support the side walls of the church, those which rise on the angles ending in ornamental pinnacles. Six fine Gothic windows in each side, and one of the same character over each of the projecting porches, light the interior. The grand altar stands within a deeply receding arch, and the side altars, the tables of which represent fine variegated marble, within arches of smaller dimensions. A gallery, supported by light clustered columns, is situated in the west or tower end of the church. Within the area that surrounds the church, is situated the convent of the Nuns of the Presentation order, for whom a school-house, adjoining the convent, was being built in the autumn of 1855. Immediately opposite the church is the nice residence of the parish priest, the Very Reverend Dr. Terence O'Connell.

There is a school conducted by the Christian Brothers in the town. The Protestant church of St. Michael's, a plain strong structure, with an equally plain tower, and characteristic spire, also of hammered stone, is situated at the market-square. In the tower is a handsome public clock, presented to the town by the Honourable George Lionel Damer Dawson, who had been for some years the representative of the borough in parliament. The church, formerly known as the French church, which was originally erected for the French Protestant refugees, and dedicated to St. Paul, is, like that of St. Michael, situated in the parish of Lea, barony of Portnehinch, Queen's County.

This church, which was built in 1696, is situated in the main street, near the old bridge. It underwent extensive repairs in 1851, and, with its fine square tower presents a very handsome and pleasing appearance. The bell of this church is considered an antique curiosity; up to a comparatively recent period the service of this church was conducted in the French language. The only claim that Portarlington can put forward to be considered a place of antiquity, arises from its proximity to the old and decayed village and ancient castle of Lea, which is situated on the banks of the Barrow. This remnant of former days was built about the year 1264, by the Anglo-Norman family of De Vesci, and was a strong castle, in the usual style of architecture adopted by the early English adventurers. Notwithstanding its great strength, being intended to protect the pale on the north and north-west, it was repeatedly taken by the Irish chieftains, the O'Dempseys, O'Mores, and O'Connors. While yet in its infancy, a charter of incorporation was granted to Portarlington by Charles II. in 1667.

There are several fine seats in this neighbourhood, among which Emo Park, the magnificent residence of the Earl of Portarlington, is the most important and remarkable. The finely-wooded demesne is very extensive, and the stately mansion, from the summit of which floats, when his lordship is at home, a rich red flag, is a very striking and beautiful feature. The station-house of the railway of this place is situated at the foot of a richly-planted elevation, called Spire Hill, which is about a statute mile from the town, and takes its name from a spire erected on it by an ancestor of the Earl of Portarlington. This spire is of square form, nearly 50 feet in height, and from the general flatness of the country, can be seen at a distance of many miles. The finely-planted hill is intersected with pleasant walks, and is much resorted to by the people of the neighbourhood, and by occasional visitors to Portarlington. The ride from this town to that of Mountmellick is one of the most agreeable which can be enjoyed in this county, or, perhaps, in any part of Ireland. The road, which is very wide, and perfectly level, runs between extensive and beautiful demesnes for nearly the whole distance, that of Emo Park being on the south, and on the north Woodbrook, with its richly-planted and picturesque lawns. At some distance beyond the demesne of Woodbrook may be seen the ruin of a square castle, which stands on part of the estate of Captain Warburton. Still further on are the extensive demesne and residence of H. D. Carden, Esq., and on the opposite side of the road, the handsome house and grounds of Sir Erasmus Burroughs.

In the neighbourhood of Mountmellick considerable improvements had taken place, especially on the lands of Mr. Kemmis, which were left to him by his late uncle. Some parties in the neighbourhood consider that these improvements were carried out at great sacrifice, as, in order to effect them, many of the old tenants were

dispossessed of their holdings, and their houses levelled. The farm-houses along this line, in general, appear very comfortable, and the condition of the people such as to afford pleasure to the man who has the welfare of his country and its inhabitants at heart. Mountmellick consists of one very long street, with a few smaller ones, which may be called lanes. The latter, as well as the extremities of the main street, are for the most part lined with thatched tenements; but in that part of the main street which extends from the bridge of three arches to the market-square, and also in that part which extends for some distance beyond the square, the houses are of a superior description, many of the private houses being equal to those which are to be seen at Portarlington, while the shops are much superior. The square is of large dimensions, and, like the street just mentioned, contains excellent houses, and very good shops. The National Bank is situated here. Cotton manufacture is carried on in the town by the Messrs. Dunne, who may be considered enterprising men of business. They have no factory, but the people work in their own houses, and produce checks, handkerchiefs, and other goods of a similar description. The beet-root works, which had been successfully established here, were at this time suspended, the establishment having been transferred to another company, who it was expected would soon resume the works, and carry them on with renewed vigour. The Messrs. Pim, members of the Society of Friends, or Quakers, like other members of their body, are remarkable for their enterprise and energy, and afford employment to a large number of persons. The Grand Canal passes close to the principal street, and renders substantial advantages to the town in a business point of view, as it opens a communication with Dublin and other places, while it affords every facility for the conveyance of goods. The markets are held on Wednesday and Saturday, and are well supplied with all the articles of agricultural produce; and like the fairs, of which there are nine in the year, they are very well attended.

The Protestant church, a plain, strong building, with a tower and spire not unlike those which are attached to the church of St. Michael, at Portarlington, is situated in the centre of the town. The Catholic church, a plain cruciform structure, is situated in the suburbs of the town, within a fine open space, and at a short distance from the handsome residence of the parish priest, the Rev. Father Healy. Here also is a community of the Nuns of the Presentation order—the ever-pious and zealous votaries of female education—for whom a new convent was at this time being built. There are schools in the town for the education of boys and girls, under the National Board of Education. While here, I noticed in the main street a very nice small Scotch church. There are a couple of good hotels in the town.

Taking his leave of the Queen's County, and proceeding to Tullamore, the capital of the King's County, the tourist will find it his interest to return to Portarlington, from which he may, with perfect

convenience, be conveyed thither by the railway. Tullamore may be considered a handsome place, the principal streets being wide and regular, and branching off at right angles from the bridge which spans the Maiden river in the centre of the town. The Clodagh river, which is a branch of the Brosna, flows through a part of the town, and is crossed by a bridge of three arches in Church Street. This town owes much of its present importance to the circumstance of the former town, which was a comparatively insignificant place, having been accidentally burned, in the year 1790, by some awkwardness connected with the ascent of a balloon. Having been immediately rebuilt by the Earl of Charleville in its present improved and handsome style, and surrounded as it is by a remarkably fertile district, it soon increased in population and in wealth. These advantages, together with what it derived from being one of the principal harbours of the Grand Canal, led to the passing of an Act of Parliament, in 1833, constituting it the assize town of the county. The canal harbour, which is situated on the bank of the Grand Canal, and approached by a new and spacious avenue, called Harbour Street, exhibits unmistakable proofs of the expense incurred in carrying out the erection of locks, stores, and the large hotel—a very commodious house. The county infirmary—an excellent institution, the Methodist chapel and endowed school, together with the new shambles and large cattle market, give to this locality an air of business and importance of more than ordinary character. The removal, however, of the Grand Canal Station to Shannon Harbour, some years ago, and the establishment of railways—so injurious to inland navigation in general—have been seriously damaging to the business of the town. A change for the worse, in this respect, was quite apparent in the aspect of the harbour, the stores, and the hotel. In this part of the town, above the northern bank of the canal, is situated the union workhouse, which here, as in other places, was at this time showing a considerable decrease in the number of its inmates. The Catholic church is situated in this section of the town, and is a large structure, upon which improvements have been made from time to time, which had the effect of interfering to a considerable extent with its original style. Its main features, as they appear at present, are those of the Grecian style of architecture. It is 120 feet in length, by 75 in breadth, and is entered in the south side, beneath a lofty arch, which is supported externally by strong buttresses; the internal mouldings springing from double clustered columns with ornamental capitals. This noble arch, which serves as a portico, was intended for the base of a campanile, but it was considered that the foundation was not sufficiently safe for such a building. From this point to the western extremity of the church, extend a series of light Doric columns, forming a colonnade. A square tower rises on each extremity of the eastern or chancel end of the church, the lower parts constituting the sacristy and

vestry, and the upper forming the approaches to the galleries, which are within the transepts. The altar stands within a semicircular recess, formed between the two flanking towers, in each extremity of which appears a fine stained-glass window, that sheds its subdued and agreeable light upon the altar. There are two handsome Gothic windows in each transept, and three of the same character in each side of the nave. The side altars, as well as the centre one, are elegantly fitted up, and decorated with angelic figures. In the rear of the gallery, in the western end of the nave, is the sweet-toned organ. The residence of the parish priest immediately adjoins the church. The convent of the Sisters of Charity—a fine substantial building, constructed of hammered limestone, with quoins, window edgings, frames, and mullions of granite—may also be said to adjoin the church. The school of the pious and devoted sisterhood faces the canal, while in front of it and the nunnery, extends a nice area, enclosed by a cut stone boundary 220 feet in length, within which are planted shrubs and beauteous flowers, which give an air of agreeable freshness to this very interesting and invaluable institution. A row of handsome trees line the intervening space between the boundary wall and the canal. At the extremity of High Street—one of the largest and finest streets in the town—which extends in a southerly direction, are situated the Court House and jail, both new and excellent buildings of their kind. The military barracks, which are of limited dimensions, and merely capable of accommodating one company of infantry, are situated at Barrack Street, in the western part of the town. The Protestant church is delightfully situated on the summit of a verdant and richly-planted elevation, in the eastern suburbs. The glebe-house stands on the eastern side, beneath the mound upon which the church is based, while the neat cottage of the sexton is situated at the foot of the eminence, on the south side, near the entrance-gate. At the foot of the hill, on the north side, is a remarkably fine well, whose limpid water is as cool and refreshing as its pure spring is inexhaustible. This fine church is of cruciform construction, and in the later English-Gothic style of architecture. It was erected in 1818, at an expense of £8,000, the greater portion of which was a donation from the Earl of Charleville. It consists of a nave, transepts, and side aisles, the whole being surrounded by a cornice and embrasured parapet. A strong but handsome tower, of two distinct stages, stands before the western front, on the angles of which rise buttresses ending in pinnacles, the sides of the summit being enriched with corbelled battlements. The chancel window is of six lights, and that above the entrance in the centre of the tower of four, while the windows in the western ends of the aisles, as well as those in the sides, five in each, are of three lights. The clerestory windows, five on each side, are of two lights each. On the outside of the church, beneath the chancel window, is the vault of the noble house of Bury, which is the family name of the Earl of Charleville.

Tullabeg College is situated about four miles from the town, and is under the management of the Jesuit Fathers, of whom the Honourable and Reverend Father French was then the President of the institution. On the eastern side of High Street, near the bridge that crosses the Maiden river already mentioned, is the large and handsome square, in the centre of which is a fountain; and on the northern side a neat market-house, the upper part of which is appropriated to assemblies and other public amusements. The other sides of the quadrangle are occupied with large and handsome private houses. There are a distillery here, carried on by Mr. Daly, and two breweries, one of them belonging to Mr. Manly, and the other to Mr. Deverell. Mr. Goodbody, a member of the Society of Friends, is a very enterprising man of business, who carries on a considerable trade in flour and other articles of merchandise, including the manufacture of liquid blacking, on the principle of the celebrated Day and Martin, of London, and other producers of this useful article. The principal hotel, the Charleville Arms, is situated in the centre of the town, at the foot of the Maiden Bridge, and is a very good house. While in Tullamore, the tourist should not forego the advantage of paying a visit to the magnificent castle and demesne of the Earl of Charleville, called Charleville Forest, a privilege which is conceded to respectable strangers. The demesne is of considerable extent, comprising an area of 1,500 acres, and possessing natural beauties of the highest order. The Clodagh river winds in a curving sweep through the beautiful grounds, and produces in many parts of them fine cascades, whose rushing sounds, as they descend into the deep glens, become subdued by the thick and overhanging trees, and finally subside into soft and agreeable murmurs. The widely-spreading lawns and rich meadows are studded and surrounded with timber of great age and large growth, while the more youthful plantations afford covert and security to the very large numbers of deer, hares, rabbits, and pheasants by which they are tenanted; the latter, the beautiful pheasants, are to be seen in great abundance on all parts of the demesne. Although thus favoured by the bountiful hand of nature, it owes much of its beauty and grandeur to the judgment and consummate skill which have been so happily and so successfully employed in the admirable blending of its artificial with its natural advantages. These artistic efforts are strikingly manifested in the beautiful lakes, with their richly-wooded islands, and their finely-planted and picturesque shores. These delightful appendages were brought into existence, at great labour and expense, by the united exertions of genius and taste. The lakes abounding in fish, and the islands in game, furnish the most gratifying occupation to the sportsman. The demesne is entered by a large and handsome gateway, with a nice gate-lodge within its slightly curving sweep, and the mansion approached by a broad and well-laid-out avenue.

The castle, a modern structure, in the old English baronial style, is

based upon an extensive plain, which rises a few feet above the surface of the surrounding lawn, and is encircled by a massive wall, with embrasures and loopholes. This wall is strengthened on each angle by a semicircular bastion—the whole of these warlike features giving to the ample area the appearance of a fortified plateau. On a nearer approach, however, the visitor will perceive that the extensive area is formed into terraces and nice walks—the whole of the intermediate space, with the exception of the ample square before the grand entrance, being cut into handsome flower-beds, and furnished with such rare and beautiful specimens as usually grace and beautify the elegant modern parterre. The castle, which is a large quadrangular building of four stories in height, entirely constructed of cut stone, is entered in the north front by a characteristic door, beneath a lofty open porch, formed by immense graduating buttresses, from which springs a splendid arch with a corbelled and embrasured cornice. Above the crown of this arch, which is filled with beautiful stained glass, rises an elliptic Gothic arch, containing a fine triplet window, and over that again is a square window, also of triplet character, while on each side of the centre, and in each of the four stories, is a window corresponding in style and appearance with that last mentioned. A lofty circular tower rises on the eastern extremity of this front, and is crowned with a surrounding ornamental balcony, from the centre of which springs a turret, the summit of which is enriched with corbelled and embattled ornaments, and from which floats a handsome ensign. On the western extremity of this front rises a beautiful octagon tower, with embattled ornaments. The south front, which faces the extensive and island-studded lakes, is flanked on each extremity by a slender square tower, with characteristic embellishments. There are three windows in each story of this façade, and a similar number in the east and west sides of the castle. In the several towers appear windows of varied form, some of which are arched, and some plain, some single, some double, and others of triple character. From the centre of the castle rises a square tower of large proportions, the summit of which, like that of the other towers, is decorated with embrasure embattlements. The tank that supplies the entire castle with water is placed in the upper story of this tower. A corridor, extending from the octagon tower on the western extremity of the north front, communicates with the beautiful domestic chapel, which stands contiguous to it. This fine edifice is in the Gothic style, of oblong form, with a handsome pinnacled and embattled turret rising on each gable. The stables and other offices, which are in keeping with the style and grandeur of the castle, are situated on the west side of it. From a building in the centre of these useful appendages rises a neat tower, containing a handsome clock. A short time previous to my visit to this grand place, a powerful machine was erected, by which, through the action of a large wheel turned by water, conveyed by pipes from the neighbouring river, a variety of important mechanical

offices are performed. These consist of sawing with upright and circular saws; working a lathe, by which every description of turning can be executed; giving the requisite impulse to a grindstone, a thrashing-machine, an oats-bruiser, a chaff-cutter, a bone-crusher—with churning and conveying water from one of the lakes, which is distant a statute mile, to the tank on the summit of the castle. These several useful operations are carried on under the direction of the steward, a very intelligent man, who resides in a neat cottage immediately adjoining the farm-yard, where the machine has been erected. The gardens, which comprise about seven acres, are carefully attended to, and contain within them every variety of fruit, whether as regards that which is produced in the open air, or in the more exciting precincts of the grapery, while plants and flowers, both native and exotic, are equally luxuriant and abundant. Leaving the gardens, the attention of the visitor is directed to the pheasantry, where large cages are provided for the use of these highly-valued birds to hatch and bring forth their young. Here were to be seen some scarce birds, including the bustard, the grouse-cock, and several birds of prey, which were confined in small separate compartments. The gamekeeper resides in a turret of peculiar construction, which is situated in the immediate vicinity of the pheasantry. This remarkable structure is of triangular shape, four stories in height, of slender proportions, and built of limestone. On entering the castle, the visitor becomes struck with its lofty and magnificent proportions. The grand staircase is surrounded by a spacious gallery, which, as well as the wainscoting, is of native oak. Two handsome silk banners, one yellow and the other red, with the royal arms displayed upon them, hang, one on each side of the staircase, while ancient coats of armour, helmets, shields, spears, and other warlike weapons, bedeck the sides of the surrounding gallery. The ceiling, which is divided into compartments, and enriched with fine groinings, part of which are finely gilt, attracts the particular attention of the visitor. The hall is lighted by the large window already mentioned, which is of eight mullions—the richly-emblazoned family arms appearing on the fine stained glass that occupies the head of the arch. The gallery is lighted by the handsome triple window which is within the elliptic Gothic arch that stands above the former. The parlour, a noble chamber, has been formed on the same plan, and is of the same proportions, as that of Warwick Castle. The picture-gallery, a magnificent saloon, of elegant proportions, extends the entire length of the south front of the castle, and contains several fine paintings by some of the best masters, many of them full-length portraits. The ceiling is elaborately wrought, and the whole gallery splendidly decorated. On taking my departure from this charming place, I felt deeply impressed by the great liberality of the noble proprietor in thus permitting a stranger to indulge in the pleasure and gratification which a close inspection of it affords. Since I penned my brief notice in reference

to it, the earl and his much-lamented countess have paid the great debt of nature, leaving behind them five infant children, the eldest of whom, Lord Tullamore—alas! for him too soon—is now the Earl of Charleville, Lady Katherine, Lady Harriet, Lady Emily, and the Honourable John William Bury. It was with feelings of deep regret I saw the death of Lady Harriet announced through the public journals, who lost her life by a melancholy accident, she having fallen over the handrail of the staircase of the castle, upon which she was sliding, in the month of April, 1861. During my visit in 1855, I had an opportunity, while passing down the avenue leading to the castle, of seeing this interesting child, who, together with her highly favoured, noble, and honourable brothers just mentioned, was being drawn in a light vehicle by two of the nursery maids along the fine gravelled walk. A more beautiful group than that formed by this juvenile trio it would be impossible to behold, and I feel now, as I felt then, that painter never employed his pencil on a subject more truly lovely than it presented. Lord Tullamore, who was between three and four years old at this time, and his brother, who had scarcely reached his thirteenth month, were very like their noble mother, who was of Hebrew extraction, with fine black eyes and dark hair, and an uncommonly beautiful cast of countenance; while Lady Harriet was said to be like her father's relative, the Duke of Argyle. Indeed, when I lately saw the splendid historical picture called "The Sleep of Argyle," in the corridor leading from the grand lobby of the houses of parliament, to that immediately in front of the entrance to the House of Commons, I at once recognised, in the clear complexion and rich auburn hair of the illustrious sleeper, the unmistakable characteristics which, together with her lovely blue eyes, distinguished the almost angelic deceased Lady Harriet, then in her third year. In the English school of paintings, in the great picture-gallery of the International Exhibition of 1862, I noticed another fine representation of "The Sleep of Argyle," in which the renowned sleeper appears in a slightly different position, with hair and complexion many shades darker than those represented in the first-mentioned picture.

Approaching Parsonstown, which is scarcely second in importance to Tullamore, the capital of the King's County, the tourist becomes struck by the extent and appearance of the military barracks, which consist of two quadrangles and an ample parade ground. These barracks are capable of accommodating eleven or twelve hundred men, and are generally occupied by depôts of infantry.

The union workhouse is situated still nearer to the town, and, at that time, afforded gratifying evidence of the improvement of the country, in the decreasing number of its inmates. This is really a very good town of its class, the houses being for the most part of a superior description, and, in many instances, being occupied by persons of respectability and independent means. The

shops are in keeping with the general appearance of the town, and present an air of neatness indicative of comfort and prosperity. Cumberland Square, an extensive and handsome area, may be considered the centre of the town, from which the principal and leading streets branch off at right angles. In the centre of this fine open space is a stately fluted Doric column, erected to the celebrated Duke of Cumberland, who distinguished himself at the battle of Culloden, in the year 1747. This striking testimonial is nearly 60 feet in height, and is surmounted by a full-length figure of the illustrious Duke, elegantly executed in white marble. The street branching eastward from this square is called John's Place, and is a fine open thoroughfare, lined for the most part with handsome private houses. On the north side of this place, a nice row of houses, with areas in front, enclosed within neat iron railings, occupies an elevated range, designated St. John's Terrace. The houses on this terrace are occupied exclusively by private families, with the single exception of the Provincial Bank, which is situated on that part which is nearest to the square. The visitor will notice in this vicinity a handsome oblong building, of moderate dimensions, and modern erection, which is a mechanics' institute, then but lately built by subscriptions collected from the inhabitants in general. The gabled front which faces the terrace is ornamented by a portico formed by four columns of the Ionic order, and two pilasters of the Doric style, while a massive entablature surrounds the entire building. Cumberland Street extends north of the square, and leads to Oxmantown Mall, where is situated the Protestant church, a very fine edifice, with a highly-enriched pinnacled tower, and crocketed steeple, 100 feet in height. Pinnacles and embrasure ornaments also embellish the angles and sides of the church. The Mall, at the eastern end of which the church is situated, is a fine open walk, with houses of a superior description on the north side, and a double row of large and beautiful trees on the south, between which is an ample gravelled space, protected by an iron railing; this, in warm weather, forms an agreeable promenade. The street which branches in a westerly direction from the square is called the Green, and leads to the private entrance of the castle, the seat of the Earl of Rosse. Duke Street, leading to the Main Street, branches in a southerly direction from the square, and extends to Market Street, at the extremity of which is a small market square.

In an open street, called Oxmantown Place, which branches in a southerly direction from John's Place, and which leads to the barracks, the union workhouse, and also to Roscrea, is situated the Catholic church, a really beautiful structure, in the enriched Gothic style of architecture, with a fine tower, ornamented with minarets. This tower contains a powerful bell, and is crowned with a light and elegant spire, which rises to a height of 150 feet from the foundation of the church. Immediately adjoining the church is a nunnery, upon which extensive improvements were being made in the latter end of

the year 1856. These improvements consisted of a chapel, a new and elegant structure, with a handsome belfry on one end, and an enriched cross upon the other; and schools, which were also in a forward state, one of which was for young girls, and the other for infants. These several buildings form a quadrangle, the chapel and infant-school being on the south, the school for the more mature children on the west, while the residences of the sisterhood and the various officers occupy the other sides of the square. There is a nice garden before the west front, and beyond it are extensive grounds, intersected with handsome walks, which afford healthful and agreeable exercise. These additions and improvements were designed by the late Mr. Pugin, and were carried out by his son, a young gentleman of great promise, and when finished, which doubtless they have been before this time, must reflect credit on the memory of the lamented deceased, while they furnish evidence of the competency and skill of his juvenile and talented representative. Taken as a whole, this church, with the convent, and its interesting adjuncts, the chapel and schools, can bear a comparison for architectural beauty and general utility with most things of the kind in any town of the same class in Ireland. There are places of worship here for Wesleyan Methodists, Independents, and Quakers. The Bridewell, a neat structure, is in keeping with the generally improved appearance of the town. There are a couple of good hotels here, one of which is situated at Cumberland Square. The markets are held on Tuesday and Saturday; and there are four fairs in the year. There are several fine seats in the neighbourhood, which cause the town to be the resort of a numerous gentry. Of these, by far the most important is Birr Castle, formerly the stronghold of the O'Carrols, the chiefs of the district. This place was on several occasions attacked and despoiled by the Danes, whose insatiable thirst for rapine and plunder caused them to be the terror of the whole island. On the invasion of the English, this castle was bestowed upon Fitz-Walter, by Henry II. The castle and extensive possessions were conferred by James I. upon Laurence Parsons, the brother of Sir William Parsons, who was engaged about that time in making a survey of Ireland. We find, that so early as the reign of Charles II., the name of the town was changed, and was called Parsonstown, after the family who, under the English domination, became the owners of it and the adjoining estate. The castle was rebuilt by the Parsons family; but having been destroyed by fire in the year 1832, it was again rebuilt by the late Earl of Rosse, and is now a remarkably fine specimen of a modern castellated mansion, well suited to the requirements of a resident patriotic nobleman. The demesne is entered from Oxmantown Mall by a spacious and massive gateway, which is flanked on each side by a strong, circular, embattled turret. Beyond each of these turrets is a nice wicket; the intermediate wall, which extends on each side of the grand entrance, and on each extremity of which rises a square

tower, being, like the connecting walls, decorated with embrasures and embattled ornaments, the whole presenting an imposing defensive appearance. On writing his name in the visitors' book, the stranger is permitted to enter, and finds himself within the very neat and ornamental pleasure-grounds. Thence proceeding for some distance he obtains an extensive prospect, comprising the rich and finely-wooded lawn, with the expansive and beautiful lake at the farthest extremity of it. Keeping to the left, he will quickly obtain a view of the castle, and as he proceeds towards it will notice the various ranges of buildings, many of them of recent erection; but all of them in keeping with the style of the magnificent structure, of which they are the auxiliaries or outposts. On approaching the castle, the visitor enters the extensive and surrounding area by a splendid and lofty arched way, formed in the lower part of the strong, castellated, gate tower. The ceiling of this entrance, being enriched with nice groinings, has a very fine appearance. While here, he becomes informed that the massive iron gates and side wickets, which are of strong, yet fanciful character, and emblazoned with the escutcheon and arms of the noble proprietor, are all the products of his own furnaces and workshops; and that all the articles of iron manufacture used upon his extensive concerns, including his farms, are wrought and fashioned in his own forges, and under his immediate inspection. The castle shows its magnificent façade to the west, and to the widely-spreading lawn, with its large and umbrageous trees, which having been judiciously laid out, and planted by the hand of judgment and taste, presents a rich and pleasing variety. On the south-western extremity of the lawn is the finely-spreading lake already mentioned, upon which the Earl and some of his distinguished visitors were being rowed in a handsome boat on the day upon which these charming scenes fell under my observation. This front, which is of pure granite, displays a slightly projecting centre, in which is the grand entrance, beneath a noble and lofty arch. Above the entrance, and within another arch that harmonises with the former, is a triple window of large proportions, with a very beautiful fancy light in the crown of the arch. On each side of this projection there are three windows of square form and of three mullions in each of its three stories; while in the basement story there are three windows of smaller dimensions, but of the same form, on each side. Beyond this portion of the front there is a square tower on each side, which, while it projects slightly, rises above the second story of the grand centre, with a fine window of three mullions in each of its two stories, and a triple window in the basement. Beyond these again are semicircular flanking towers, which rise somewhat higher than their square associates, with three fine Gothic windows in each of their two stories. The other sides of the building are quite in keeping with the character of this front, and present a rich, and, from their embattled ornaments, a very

strong appearance. The extensive boundary wall which surrounds the castle and its various offices, and which divides them from that portion of the town called the Green, a large open space, which extends to their immediate precincts, is of a strongly fortified character, being surmounted by embrasures and massive battlements, apparently capable of resisting every external aggression. Before the south front, in a deep ravine, flows the rapid river, anciently called Comcor, a branch of the lesser Brosna, which, in its headlong course, produces here a loud murmuring sound, that in rainy weather is somewhat astounding, but which in the summer season becomes subdued, and has an agreeable effect upon the ear. The lawn, which is considerably higher than the bed of the river, and from which there is a descent by handsome terraces, and also by flights of stone steps, is finely embellished and ornamented on this side, while the river is spanned by a light and elegant wire bridge, whose elasticity is, to some extent, startling to those who are not familiar with its construction. The banks of the river are richly planted, and its waters in some places obscured by the foliage of the over-hanging boughs. That, however, which most interests the intelligent visitor is the monster telescope, which the noble and scientific proprietor, with a devotion and perseverance worthy of such praise as an admiring world has bestowed upon the philosophical efforts which have distinguished the Newtons, the Bacons, the Lockes, and the other benefactors and ameliorators of the human race, has laboured so assiduously to bring to perfection. Upon this great and highly important project he incessantly employed his time and thought, and by a vast expenditure of capital, and even manual exertion, he has succeeded in constructing the largest and finest instrument of this description to be seen in any country. The various scientific apparatus, which his great industry and experience have enabled him to collect, are deposited in the observatory, which is situated on that part of the lawn immediately before the western front of the castle. These interesting objects were placed under the care of Mr. Mitchell, a young gentleman of high attainments, who was the private tutor of his lordship's eldest son, Lord Oxmantown, then in the sixteenth year of his age. To those who have leisure to inspect and carefully examine these rare and valuable articles of scientific utility, and who are capable of appreciating their great importance, by understanding their several uses, a visit to the castle would be of considerable advantage. But even to the comparatively uneducated and non-scientific visitor, it holds out inducements of a more than ordinary character. It requires no great amount of elementary knowledge to enable a rational and reflecting mind to comprehend and admire the immense power of the giant instruments which the genius and profound skill of the noble earl has enabled him to produce. Within the observatory, among the various clocks, globes, and atlases, are to be seen a pair of telescopes, which are placed so as to command a

view of the heavens, as occasion may require, through the dome by which it is crowned. These telescopes are about ten feet in length, and one foot in diameter, and, of course, are capable of affording valuable assistance to the astronomer. Having satisfied his curiosity with all that is to be seen in this temple of science, including some rare specimens of the higly-polished speculums for which it is so famed, the visitor is accompanied by the scientific gentleman in charge of the observatory to that part of the lawn where the great telescopes are placed. The smallest of these large tubes is over 25 feet in length, and 3 feet 6 inches in diameter, and is hung in a wooden frame, in such a manner as to be at once under the control of the curious observer. But the great wonder of this celebrated place is the rare telescope, the largest instrument of the kind in the world, being 56 feet in length, and 6 feet 6 inches in diameter. This immense tube is placed between two massive walls, constructed of hammered limestone, which rise to a height of 56 feet, being the elevation to which the instrument, when raised to a perpendicular position, reaches. On the summits of these walls are moveable stages, which admit of being drawn out so as to enable the observer to look through the sight, which is near the upper end of the tube, and thereby obtain a command of the celestial objects, reflected from the massive and extensive field of the speculum. Apparatus of ingenious construction are so placed below as to be capable of being used with effect when the telescope is rendered available for the lowest range. They can be raised so as to enable the astronomer to take his observations at whatever angle the instrument is placed. These several stages and apparatus are worked by winches, with strong chains, so admirably contrived as to be capable of being operated on with a comparatively small amount of manual labour. This immense tube, and the other just mentioned, as well as those within the observatory, are all of cast-iron, and were manufactured under his lordship's immediate inspection, and also with his personal assistance; for, to his great honour be it spoken, he donned the paper cap and the apron of the sons of Vulcan, and with the strength of his arm, and the sweat of his brow, laboured in fashioning these powerful instruments which enable us pigmies of the earth to obtain more perfect glimpses of celestial objects, and more fully thereby to comprehend the great and wonderful works of the Divine and All-powerful Architect, and, in proportion to our knowledge of His miraculous creations, to become better Christians and better men. The great amount of patience, labour, skill, and expense bestowed upon these immense castings, and the still greater time necessarily devoted to the formation and polishing of the speculums—the largest and most perfect of mirrors ever applied to such purposes, which are composed of 55 parts of tin, and 45 of copper—entitle this distinguished and patriotic nobleman to the everlasting gratitude,

not only of his own country, but, in fact, of the whole civilised world.

Works like these carry their own eulogium, and a feeling similar to that which induced the people of Greece and of Rome to pay divine honours to the memory of the rough, but skilful Vulcan, will doubtless induce the people of our progressive age to recognise in this Irish nobleman a public benefactor worthy to rank with the most distinguished men of modern times. While engaged in studying and observing bodies far removed from our sublunary sphere, he is not unmindful of what he owes to society in general, and to those who live upon his property; for by his constant residence upon his estate, and the care he bestows upon the town of which he is the owner, he has succeeded in rendering Parsonstown the most beautiful town in the King's County. It must be admitted, however, that nature has done much for the town; for placed, as it is, in the midst of a fertile district, its markets are well supplied with agricultural produce, and the business of the place, as may be supposed, flourishes in a proportionable degree.

Philipstown, formerly the capital of the King's County, has little to recommend it to the traveller's attention, and, therefore, as my space is becoming somewhat limited, I shall merely say that, at present, it presents a decaying and dilapidated appearance. It is forty-seven miles from Dublin, and obtained its present name in the reign of Philip and Mary, in honour of the king, as Maryborough was so named in compliment to the queen. The Grand Canal passes in the immediate vicinity of the town, but the traffic has greatly declined since the establishment of railways. The market is held on Thursday, and is well supplied with the requisite commodities. There are seven fairs in the year. The Protestant church is situated near the Court House, which is in the centre of the principal street, and is a plain structure, with a corresponding tower, which is decorated with pinnacles. The Catholic church is situated on the eastern side of the town, and is a neat cruciform edifice, with a handsome belfry rising above the gabled front, which faces the west. The residence of the parish priest adjoins the church. There is also a Methodist place of worship in the town. At some distance west of the town are situated what were formerly the jail and cavalry barracks, but which, within the last dozen years, were converted to a convict prison, containing, when I paid my visit in the autumn of 1855, more than three hundred prisoners. This prison has been closed, and the convicts were removed to the Mountjoy Prison, Dublin, in the summer of 1862.

At the neat residence of Thomas John Smith, Esq., which occupies the site of what was called Philip's Castle, situated at a short distance east of the Protestant church, are to be seen some remains or foundations of an ancient building of considerable extent. On each side of the hall-door of Mr. Smith's house is a slab, embedded

in the wall, the arms of England, in which the lion rampant appears conspicuous, being engraved upon one of them, and on the other, what, in all probability, were intended for those of Spain, in compliment to the King Consort. There are schools in the town for boys and girls, under the National Board of Education; and one under Erasmus Smith's grant.

Approaching the town of Edenderry, the tourist will notice at the village of Killame, which is about a mile from that town, the Catholic church of the district, a neat cruciform edifice. The union workhouse appears in the same neighbourhood, and is healthfully situated on the side of what is called the Windmill Hill. On entering the town of Edenderry, the traveller at once becomes prepossessed in its favour. This pleasing impression arises from the cleanly appearance of the town, which consists of one fine street of nearly half a mile in length, extending in a direct line from west to east. In the eastern portion of this street, and in the centre of an ample square is the market-house, and town-hall, a very fine building, erected at an expense of £5,000, by the Marquis of Downshire, who is the owner of about two-thirds of the property on which the town stands. The market is held on Saturday, and is well supplied with the usual commodities. Corn and potatoes are weighed in the lower portion of the market-house, and butter at a small weigh-house adjoining the shambles, which are situated on the western side of the square. There are several fine private houses in the town, with some excellent shops, the whole affording gratifying evidence of the liberality of the lord of the soil.

The Protestant church is situated upon a handsome elevation on the south side of the town, and is a comparatively plain structure, with a strong pinnacled tower. It is approached by a nicely-planted avenue, in which there is a school for boys, with a very neat cottage in which girls are taught; and also a pretty lodge, wherein the sexton resides. At the upper end of the avenue, immediately in front of the church, is a full-length statue of the late Marquis of Downshire, standing on a pedestal of about 6 feet in height. This statue, which is said to be an excellent likeness, is from the chisel of Kirk, of Dublin. There is a small Methodist chapel on the eastern side of the market-square, and at a short distance from it a Quakers' meeting-house. In the west end of the town, or street, is situated a school, under the National Board, one of the best houses in the town.

CHAPTER VIII.

TOWNS IN THE COUNTIES OF KILDARE AND MEATH.

THE tourist, proceeding by railway from Carlow, and entering the county of Kildare, will soon arrive at Athy, a handsome regular town, and for its size, a very prosperous and flourishing one; where, owing to the generosity of his Grace the Duke of Leinster, the lord of the soil, great improvements have been made, and where, in the autumn of 1855, others of comparative importance were being carried out. This town is favourably situated on the river Barrow, which river, as it flows beneath the fine stone bridge of five arches, intersects the main street, leaving the principal part of the town on the eastern side. On this side of the river, near the bridge, the road leading to Monastereven and Carlow, divides the main street at right angles, forming on the Carlow side, a spacious area, called the Market Square, which is surrounded with good houses and handsome shops. The Court House, a neat moderate-sized structure, stands in the centre of the Market Square, leaving a large open area in the rear, called Emily Square, to which, on each side of the building, leads a capacious street. Here also are several good houses, and amongst them, the National Bank, the Loan Fund, and the Dispensary. There was also a branch of the Tipperary Joint Stock Banking Company in the town, which, on its failure, was replaced by a branch of the Hibernian Banking Company.

The Castle, a strong, square, embattled structure, and a very imposing feature, was erected on the eastern bank of the river, by Gerald, eighth earl of Kildare, in the year 1506. On a panelled slab, inlaid in the front wall, may be seen the Kildare arms, with the distinguishing and supporting monkeys: on another panel appears an inscription of very long standing. In the year 1575, the castle was enlarged by a member of the White family, and has since that time been called White's Castle. It was some years ago used as a prison; but it is at present a constabulary barrack, and is in excellent preservation. The splendid bridge which crosses the Barrow in the centre of the town, was built by his Grace, Robert, Duke of Leinster, in 1796, and, in compliment to him, was called "The Crom-a-Boo Bridge." Its site was so fixed as to have the ancient castle immediately at its foot, the front of which is on a line with its northern

battlement. The architect of this fine bridge, James Delahunty, Esq., had the honour of knighthood conferred upon him. On an open space opposite the castle, and between the Market Square and the river, a new corn exchange was at this time being built. It is about 70 feet in length and 30 in breadth; the base-course, quoins, and ornamental parts, being of cut granite, and the materials in general a description of limestone. The principal market is held on Saturday, and is well supplied and very well attended. Large quantities of corn are purchased here for the supply of some extensive mills on the

ATHY CASTLE.

Barrow, and also for the Dublin markets. Arrangements have been made here for the convenience of the buyer and seller, which appear to afford great satisfaction. A weighing-machine has been established, where corn, potatoes, and other articles are weighed, at one halfpenny per sack; and sworn weighmasters are in attendance, by whom printed tickets of the weight are given to those who may require them. This system of fairness and regularity has inspired the fullest confidence between the parties interested, and is found to be productive of the best results. There are five fairs held here in the year. Athy has long possessed the advantage of communication, by the Grand Canal, with the maritime cities of Dublin and Waterford, and the port of New Ross.

The surrounding country abounds in turf, which, while it furnishes a cheap supply of fuel for the town and neighbourhood, forms an important branch of trade with other places, to which it is conveyed by the boats and barges that ply on the canal. About five miles from the town, extensive peat works were at this time carried on by Rees Reece, Esq., in which large numbers of men, women, and children,

were employed. In these works, oil, soap, candles, and various commodities were produced by the scientific and ingenious process brought to bear upon the turf, which, in large quantity and superior quality, is raised in this part of the county. The employment thus afforded was well calculated to reduce the number of paupers in the district, and consequently, the union workhouse, which occupies an elevated site in a healthful locality on the western side of the river, about half a mile from the town, was showing a considerable diminution in its inmates. This being the harvest season, such a result was naturally to be expected; however, independently of the harvest, a steady decrease had been for some time gradually taking place. The wages for harvest labourers in the neighbourhood, at this time, ranged from two shillings to two shillings and sixpence, without food, and from one shilling and sixpence to one shilling and eightpence, with diet. The military barracks stand above the river, between the town and the union-house, and are capable of accommodating one troop of cavalry, or one company of infantry. The Fever Hospital is conveniently situated at a short distance beyond the poorhouse, on the same side of the river. The Protestant church, a handsome cruciform edifice, in the later English style of architecture, constructed of hewn stone, is situated at a short distance from a striking substantial arch that crosses the centre of the Carlow road, in the immediate vicinity of the town. A graceful spire has since been added to this church, by which, in an ornamental point of view, its character is considerably enhanced. The jail is situated on the opposite side of the road, at a short distance from the church, and is entered by a massive arch, flanked on each side with bold rusticated masonry. It was erected in 1830, at an expense of £6,000, of which, £2,000, together with the site upon which it stands, were given by the Duke of Leinster, and the remainder provided by the county.

The Catholic church, a cruciform structure of neat appearance, is situated on the eastern side of the river, at a short distance from the castle, on a site consisting of an acre of ground given by his Grace the Duke, who also contributed liberally to its erection. The fine planted area, to which there are two approaches, the principal of them being from the Monastereven road, which skirts the river on this side, surrounds two sides of the church, while the new and handsome convent of the Sisters of Charity, with its school-house and garden, may be said to lie before the other sides. The internal appearance of the church is in harmony with its handsome exterior. The principal altar is within an appropriate recess, and is enriched with a fine painting of "Our Blessed Redeemer's descent from the Cross," the dead body of the "Man God" being borne in the arms of some of his apostles. The residence of the parish priest is immediately opposite the church, and that of his curates within a few doors of it. On the opposite side of the river, and near to its verge, appears the ruin of Woodstock Castle, a very interesting object as viewed from the

bridge, or from the Monastereven road. Its great strength and massive construction have enabled it to withstand the ravages of time, and, with the exception of the court and out-works, it is still in tolerable preservation. The walls are very thick, and their hoary sides enveloped in a coat of verdant ivy. The mullioned windows are much admired for their style and the elegance of their execution. The finely-arched gateway, and part of the outer court, still remain. This is one of the strong square structures so frequently to be seen in the portions of the country which were within, and on the borders of, the English pale, and which were doubtless raised by the new settlers to guard against the inroads of the dreaded and injured natives, who, by some writers, have been designated the "mere Irish." On the western bank of the river, south of the bridge, and at a short distance from the town, are situated the convent and chapel of the Friars of the Dominican order. The convent is a neat modern house, and the chapel a plain oblong structure, apparently of much longer standing. The situation is handsome, and to some extent secluded, and therefore well suited to the retiring and meditative habits of the pious and devoted brotherhood to whom the institution belongs, while the chapel is sufficiently near to minister to the requirements of the inhabitants in general. In the eastern part of the town, near the railway station, is an ancient burial-place called St. Michael's churchyard, in the centre of which are the remains of a house of worship of oblong form, the walls of which are still nearly entire, and the pointed gables shrouded by a covering of sheltering ivy, the constant and never-failing support of the ruined and time-stricken fane. On a plot of ground opposite this churchyard, the site had then been marked out, and the foundation prepared, for the erection of the new Scotch church. In its vicinity, also, is situated the National Model School, an extensive and beautiful building. This useful and interesting institution, to which is attached an agricultural school, was opened in the year 1850. The building is constructed on the most approved plan, the rooms being lofty and commodious, and capable of containing a large number of pupils. The walls were furnished and appropriately decorated with all the newest and best maps, of various sizes, and with numerous illustrations of animals, beasts, birds, and fishes: in a word, all the modern improvements recommended by the National Board of Education are here adopted, and successfully carried out, by the intelligent master of the establishment. In the agricultural school, which is held in one wing of the building, youths are educated, and the practical principles associated with its appellation carefully inculcated. Six young men, who are intended for teachers under the national system of education, are lodged and boarded in the establishment. An equal number of those included in the agricultural class are likewise maintained in the house. An extensive farm, for the training and improvement of the agricultural pupils, is attached to the institution. The numbers of

children, male and female, that attend these schools, are very considerable. The education is not entirely gratuitous, as each pupil pays a very moderate stipend, or what may be more properly termed a nominal sum per week. The payment of this trifling demand is enforced, more for the purpose of preserving the self-respect of the pupils and their friends, than for its intrinsic value. There are a couple of comfortable hotels, with attached posting establishments, in the town.

While in Athy, the tourist will doubtless avail himself of so favourable an opportunity to pay a visit to Rheban Castle, which is situated on the eastern bank of the river, about three statute miles north of the town. This castle was built by Richard de St. Michael in the thirteenth century, and although now in ruins, its massive walls, mullioned windows, and, above all, its commanding position, lead to the conviction that it was eminently calculated to check and overawe the surrounding country. It consisted of a lofty square tower and strong keep—the tower, from its style and dimensions, exhibiting traits of more than an ordinary degree of strength and grandeur. Even in ruins, its still stately walls, with their numerous windows, and the massive keep, partially overshadowed with the large and spreading trees which grow in the interior of the quadrangular area, and also the dark and luxuriant ivy by which it is partly enveloped, render it an object of interest to those who are desirous of viewing the remains of the defensive strongholds of the feudal chieftains of a semi-barbarous age. Beneath its rent and hoary battlements reposes, in happy and pleasing contrast, an elegant thatched cottage, which is occupied by the present owner of the castle and surrounding lands and his family, who doubtless enjoy more real happiness and domestic bliss than were experienced by the arrogant warrior chief of the once impregnable fortalice. The pleasure-boat on the adjoining river, the well-laid-out garden, and the tasteful parterre, in the vicinity of the house, prove that the dwellers therein are not strangers to the refinements of life; while the number of milch cows under the management of the dairy girls, and the herds of young stock on the rich pasture grounds, show that the sensible and provident owner understands his position, and also that he knows full well how to maintain it. It has been said that the Lord of Rheban, Richard de St. Michael, founded a monastery on the west bank of the river Barrow, in the year 1253, for crouched friars. But of this monastery, or that founded by the families of Boyle or Hogan, on the eastern bank of the same river, in the thirteenth century, for Dominicans or preaching friars, there are now no visible remains.

On leaving Rheban Castle, the tourist will notice, near Millmount bridge, a magnificent structure which crosses the Barrow, extensive mills that are now in the possession of the steward of Lord Downes. These mills, and those which are now worked by Mr. Houghton, about a mile from the town, in the opposite or southerly direction, consume large quantities of grain. The beautiful demesne of Lord

Downes is entered about half a mile from Millmount bridge. The mansion, a fine courtly building, called Bert House, shows to much advantage from the western side of the river. It is approached by a noble avenue of about half a mile in length, of ample width and great regularity, which, with the striking and handsome curving entrance, and the unique gate-lodge, in front of which are laid out tasteful flower-beds, command the admiration of the visitor. Stately trees, of vigorous growth and luxuriant foliage, line the avenue on both sides, beyond which are spreading lawns and rich meadows, which are studded and adorned with valuable timber. The eastern front of the mansion, in which is the principal or carriage entrance, consists of a centre and two projecting wings. A fine portico extends along the entire of the centre, with six Doric columns supporting a rich entablature, which is surmounted by a balcony, in front of which are light and elegant balustrades. The western façade fronts the Barrow, and, like the eastern front, displays a centre and wings, with richly-decorated panel-work on the upper range of the centre. Before this front a fine verdant lawn slopes gradually down to the margin of the river, and is enriched with handsome terraces and ornamental plantations. An extensive and finely curving avenue leads to another handsome gate-lodge on the north side of the demesne, and to the neat church of Kilberry, with its pinnacled tower and elegant spire, which immediately adjoins the entrance.

Kilkea Castle and demesne, the seat of the Most Noble the Marquis of Kildare, which is about five miles from Athy, is well worthy of the tourist's notice. This was one of the castles built by Hugh de Lacy in 1180, and, like many others erected by that nobleman in this part of Ireland, was of great strength. In 1426, John, the sixth Earl of Kildare, made considerable improvements on the castle, which added considerably to its importance. It is situated on an elevation, and therefore commands an extensive prospect. The small river Grisso runs at a short distance from it, and on the east of it is a church, in which rest the remains of many of the Kildare family. The courtyard in the rear is entered by a remarkably strong arch, which is defended by a round tower that projects from the castle, while in the front of the building, and on its western end, is also a circular tower. Over the chimney-piece in one of the rooms are the Leinster arms, with the date 1573, said to have been placed there by Gerald, the eleventh earl of Kildare, who was wonderfully preserved after the death of his father; and who, in 1552, was restored to honour and fortune by the youthful monarch, Edward VI., and in the same year had the lordship of Kilkea confirmed to him. This nobleman greatly distinguished himself in the subsequent wars in Ireland, and was a firm supporter of the English government. The moat of Ardscull, a very remarkable feature, is situated about three miles from the town of Athy, on the Dublin line of road. It derives some historical importance from its having been the scene of a sanguinary battle, in

1315, between the English and the Scotch, under Edward Bruce, when the former were defeated, and two of their leaders, Raymond le Gros and Sir William Prendergast, killed. On the side of the Scots fell Sir Fergus Andressan and Sir Walter Murray. This elevated earthwork was enclosed and planted many years ago by the Duke of Leinster. A charter of incorporation was conferred on this town in the year 1613, and it continued to send two members to parliament until the time of the Union, when the sum paid for the abolition of the franchise was divided between the Duke of Leinster and Lord Ennismore, £13,800 to the former, and £1,200 to the latter. In the stormy period of 1642, the castle of Athy was taken by the Marquis of Ormonde, and in 1647 by Owen Roe O'Neil. In 1650 it fell into the hands of the parliamentary forces, under Colonels Hewson and Reynolds.

On leaving Athy, which is about eighteen miles from Naas, and thirty-two from Dublin, the train passes over a champaign country, a large portion of which is part of the Bog of Allen, which in this county comprises something amounting to 50,000 acres. The monotonous appearance of this extensive tract is in some degree relieved by the undulating hills which occasionally appear in the distance. The next object of interest that attracts the notice of the traveller, is the extensive common called the Curragh, which comprises between five and six thousand acres, and is about six miles in length, and two miles in breadth. This really magnificent plain, and the widely-spreading bog just mentioned, constitute the most remarkable features of the county of Kildare. The Curragh may be considered an extensive sheep-walk, as the occupiers of the adjacent farms possess the right of grazing its fine pastures, and consequently large flocks of sheep are to be seen upon it. The verdant surface of this slightly undulating plain, so finely laid out by the hand of nature, as to transcend the greatest efforts of art, is eminently calculated to delight the beholder. It has long been the principal and favourite racecourse, and may be considered the "Newmarket" of Ireland. Its characteristic beauty and great extent, added to the elasticity of its sod, entitle it to rank as one of the finest racing-grounds in the empire. This splendid course is under the care of a ranger, appointed by the Crown, who exercises a judicious surveillance over it. It is much resorted to during the racing months of April, June, and October. The Jockey Club has a house in the town of Kildare for the use and accommodation of its members during the races, which are well attended and regularly conducted. Sir Richard Hoare says that, according to some ancient writers, the modern name of Kildare is derived from *Chille-dair*, or the "Wood of Oaks," and that the middle part of the present county Kildare was under a large forest, in the centre of which was the spacious plain, now called the Curragh, which was dedicated to heathen religious rites. Giraldus Cambrensis, in his

"Topography of Ireland," speaks of a stupendous monument of stones, which were heaped together on this plain. We find that in 1234, Richard Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, the successor of William, the former earl, having joined the O'Connors against the English government, was killed in a battle on the Curragh of Kildare by the Lord-Justice, aided by the De Lacys, the Fitz-Geralds, and the De Burghs.

The Curragh derives considerable importance at present from the establishment of the military camp on a portion of its vast area. Soon after the breaking out of the Russian war, it was deemed expedient to form an encampment here, as well as at Aldershott, in England, in order that her Majesty's forces might be rendered familiar with field exercise and also camp usage. Approaching the Curragh, at present, the visitor will perceive in the distance a long line of low habitations, which bear a resemblance to what might be supposed to be the city, or principal abode, of some king or chief of an uncivilised race, such as we have seen described by Mungo Park and other African travellers. These newly-constructed huts, if confined within a comparatively limited space, would strike the beholder as being of very great extent, but from the vast size of the plain on which they have been erected, their appearance is by no means so imposing. Several of the regiments which were in the camp when I paid my visit to it in the autumn of 1855, happened to be out for exercise, and although some of them were pretty full, as for instance, the County Limerick Militia, which mustered over 800 strong, they appeared from a distance to be a mere handful. There were at that time eight regiments, amounting to about 5,000 men, stationed here. The line of encampment may be said to extend a length of nearly two miles, in a direction partly east and west, occupying a gentle acclivity, which slopes downwards towards the north and south, whereby the water in rainy weather flows quickly off the ground, an advantage which must be considered of the greatest importance as regards the health and comfort of the troops.

The town of Kildare is situated near the western extremity of this capacious plain, and by its elevated position, and its interesting ruins, is rendered strikingly conspicuous. The tourist, as he more closely approaches this renowned and once important place, becomes filled with awe and admiration, as he gazes on its lofty and picturesque ruins, amongst which the tall and stately round tower, and the magnificent remnant of the beautiful church tower, are remarkably prominent and attractive objects. As he draws nearer to the interesting ruins, he becomes deeply impressed with the beauty and the style of those of the ancient church of St. Bridget. Of the remains of this celebrated church, the most perfect are the nave, the south transept, and the arches of the great central tower. The side walls of the nave are in tolerable preservation, as are the finely-arched windows, six on each side. The south transept

is in still better preservation, and with its tall and triple window excites the admiration of the visitor. The north transept and the northern side of the central tower are entirely destroyed. Some writers say that these portions of the ancient cathedral suffered from a battery, which was directed against them in the fierce and bloody warfare of 1641. In the chapel of the south transept are two effigies, in alto-relievo; one of which represents a bishop in his robes, with a pastoral staff in his hand, and a mitre on his head, supported by two monkeys. This is supposed to be a me-

ST. BRIDGET'S CATHEDRAL.

morial of Edmund Lane, Bishop of Kildare, who was interred here in the year 1522. The other, a remarkable and curious figure in armour, is said to have been erected to the memory of Sir Maurice Fitz-Gerald, of Lackagh; it bears an inscription, and curiously emblazoned escutcheons. John Fitz-Thomas, the first earl of Kildare, who died at Larahbrian, near Maynooth, was buried in this church in 1316. Three earls of the great house of Kildare were buried here. The choir of the cathedral escaped the ravages of time, and the vandalism of a sanguinary, and, occasionally, a fanatical warfare, and at present forms the Protestant church of the parish. This portion of the ancient building, notwithstanding modern repairs, retains many traits of antique beauty; these are to be found in the fine triple eastern window, and in the side windows, which are of handsome coupled character, within fine Norman arches. North-west of the choir, on a portion of what was the north transept, a new bell-tower has been erected, the bell of the church having for many years been hung in one of the windows of the southern remnant of the lofty tower of the cathedral. Pains have been recently taken to make some restorations on those portions of the building upon which the rude hand of time has operated with the most damaging effect; and

although it is now almost too late to do much good in this respect, still great credit is due to those who have evinced a disposition to preserve what has hitherto been too much neglected. The southern side of the magnificent central tower already alluded to, conveys to the visitor a tolerable notion of the beauty and grandeur of this renowned cathedral; while the fine supporting arches, which on the south and east sides are still in great perfection, are really splendid and sublime features. On the side of the nave near the south transept, is a deep cave or vault, to which there is a descent by a flight of steps. There are several antique and curiously wrought sculptured stones in the abbey, and in the vestibule of the present church. At the distance of about 90 feet north-west of the western end of the nave of the cathedral, stands the magnificent round tower, which is about 132 feet in height, and in excellent preservation. The summit of this tower, unlike most of those of the same description which are to be seen in this country, is embellished with graduating battlements; but these appear to have been of comparatively recent erection. The entrance to this tower differs also from most of those which are to be seen elsewhere, inasmuch as the stones that form the rounded arch are sculptured and richly moulded. Among the curiosities which are to be seen in the churchyard, are a massive block of fine granite, without inscription or other decoration, which might be taken for the pedestal of a large cross, and also a cross, the shaft of which is about 6 feet in height, part of the head of which is broken. This ancient emblem of Christianity stands at some distance south of the round tower. The vault of the Medlicot family attracts the stranger's notice, and is situated on the outside of the southern wall of the nave of the cathedral, within a large enclosed space, surrounded by a high and strong wall, with a plain slab in the front, which records the decease of several members of the family, the most ancient of the inscriptions dating no farther back than the year 1717. Kildare derived its name, as it did its early importance, from the monastery founded here by the famed and illustrious St. Bridget. This renowned and holy virgin was the daughter of an Irish chieftain, and, as we are informed, towards the latter end of the fifth century, received the veil from the hands of the blessed St. Patrick. Her great sanctity soon became proverbial, and was instrumental in causing seven or eight young and pious maidens to follow her example, who, attaching themselves to her fortunes, formed at first her infant religious community. But the widely-spreading celebrity, which was caused by this virgin's eminent piety, and the supernatural gifts attributed to her, had the effect of inducing crowds of applicants, both young women and widows, to beg for admission into her institution. At first she contented herself with founding establishments for her followers in the respective districts of which they were natives, in which task she had the concurrence and assistance of the bishops of the different sees. But the increasing number of those who required

her own immediate superintendence, rendered it necessary that some great establishment should be founded, over which she should herself preside. Consequently the people of Leinster, who considered that they had peculiar claims upon her, as the illustrious family to which she belonged had been natives of their province, sent a deputation to her, to earnestly entreat that she would fix her residence amongst them. To this request the saint assented, and an establishment was immediately provided for herself and her sister nuns, which formed the commencement, both of her own monastery and of the town of Kildare.

The name of *Kill-dara*, or "Cell of the Oak," was given to the monastery from a very high oak tree which grew near the spot, and of which we are told the trunk was still remaining in the twelfth century; a very handsome tree of that species at present grows beside the cathedral. The extraordinary veneration in which St. Bridget was held, caused such crowds of persons of all ranks to resort to this place, including penitents, pilgrims, and mendicants, that a new town rapidly sprang up, which kept pace with the growing prosperity of the monastery. The necessity of providing spiritual direction, as well for the institution itself as for the numerous settlers who had established themselves in the town, led to the appointment of a Bishop of Kildare, with the extraordinary privilege of presiding over all the churches and communities belonging to the order of St. Bridget, throughout the kingdom. The bishop thus appointed and privileged, was St. Conlath, who with the assistance of the illustrious Bridget, built the cathedral, which was also the church of the monastery. Having lived to reap the reward of her great zeal and devotion, in witnessing the perfect success, and even the ascendancy, of the institution which she had founded, St. Bridget closed her mortal career at Kildare, about the year 525, four years, it is said, after the birth of the great Columbkill, being at the time of her death about seventy-four years of age. It has been stated that this great saint was with the blessed St. Patrick at the time of his death; but however that may be, her remains, which were interred in her own church at Kildare, were subsequently removed to the cathedral church of Down, and placed near those of her contemporary, St. Patrick, and his illustrious successor, St. Columbkill. In the annals of this renowned monastic establishment it is recorded, that Dermot MacMurrough, the self-willed and headstrong King of Leinster, in the year 1135, forcibly took the abbess of that period from her cloister, and compelled her to marry one of his friends or followers. We find it also recorded, that the far-famed fire of Kildare, which was lighted in the time of St. Bridget, was, in 1220, extinguished by Henry de Loundres, Archbishop of Dublin. It was, however, soon after re-lighted, and, as we are informed, continued to burn as before, until the suppression of the monastery, at the time of the Reformation. In the vicinity of the extensive fair-green, which lies south of the town, are situated the

remains of the Kildare, or Grey Abbey, with its ancient churchyard. This building, which appears to have been a well-constructed though not very spacious edifice, was commenced in the year 1260, by Lord William de Vescy, for friars of the Franciscan order, but was finished by Gerald Fitz-Maurice, Lord Offaley. The latter nobleman, who died at Rathmore, near Naas, in 1286, was interred here. This ruin is about 120 feet in length, and about 30 in breadth in the clear. Some of the windows and massive buttresses are still in tolerable preservation. There are no tombs in this churchyard, and but very few graves of recent formation.

There was also a convent for Carmelites, or White Friars, founded in Kildare, by Lord William de Vescy, in the year 1290, one of the abbots of which, the learned David O'Buge, who flourished in the year 1320, acquired such fame, that according to the astute Bale, he swayed the councils of the whole island, and was held in the highest estimation at Oxford, and at Treves, in Germany. He wrote several truly learned works, and was well versed in divinity, philosophy, rhetoric, and the canon and civil law. Archdall says that he was generally called the burning light, the mirror, and the ornament of his country. The convent of the friars of this order is situated in the western end of the town, at a comparatively short distance from the ruin of St. Bridget's Cathedral. It is at present a neat modern house, and from the area in front of it being enriched with ornamental shrubs and flowers, has a very pleasing appearance. The chapel of the brethren immediately adjoins the convent, and is a plain house of worship; the interior is nicely laid out, and enriched with a very neat altar, in the rear of which is the vestry, and above it the choir gallery. There is also a gallery in the western end of the chapel. West of the chapel is the cemetery, a popular burial ground, which is also decorated with trees and ornamental shrubs, which give it a fresh and prepossessing appearance.

At the distance of a statute mile from the town appears an ecclesiastical ruin, situated within an ancient burial ground, called Tully Churchyard. This ruin consists of a strong central tower, from which a range of building, that constituted the nave and choir of a moderate sized church, extends on the east and west sides. At a short distance from the churchyard is a fine limpid well, enclosed within a low circular wall, composed of limestone. This pure and powerful spring is called St. Bridget's Well, and is held in great veneration by the people of the district. Tully was once an important place, and is rendered memorable and peculiarly interesting, from its having been the residence of the renowned and gallant Sarsfield, who so greatly distinguished himself as one of the generals of the Irish army, during the time of the Williamite War, and who subsequently acquired such eminence in the service of France, to which country he retired with the remnant of the army of Ireland, after the capitulation and surrender of Limerick. This property belonged to the church, but

in 1560 was given by Alexander Craik, then Bishop of Kildare, to Patrick Sarsfield, the ancestor of the distinguished general just mentioned, in exchange for some tithes of comparatively insignificant value. Notwithstanding the many interesting reminiscences connected with Kildare, and the fine antique objects which afford such unmistakable attestation of its former glory, it is now an impoverished and sinking place. In the market-square, which is the centre and principal part of the town, some of the largest and best of the houses are showing symptoms of decay; and what was not long since the principal hotel, has somewhat recently been converted into a police barrack.

The Catholic church is a handsome edifice, of oblong form, with a tower and steeple at its western end. The steeple, which contains a good bell, is surmounted by a ball and cross, and in the tower is a clock, which shows a dial to each of the cardinal points. The interior is in keeping with its external appearance, the centre and side altars being ornamented with double columns of the Ionic order, and enriched with some fine paintings. Adjoining the entrance to the area that surrounds the church is a school, for the education of boys, in connection with the National Board; while east of it is situated the handsome convent of the Nuns of the Presentation order, with its neat chapel and school. The school, which is somewhat detached from the convent, is an oblong structure, capable of containing a large number of pupils, who are carefully attended to by the pious sisterhood, whose order is so celebrated for its untiring devotion to the education of the poor and destitute children of the country. The Court House, in which Quarter Sessions are held twice in the year, and Petty Sessions every second week, is a convenient building; while the county infirmary, formerly a military barrack, is a commodious structure, situated in a healthful locality. The club-house, a handsome modern structure, is reserved solely for the use of the Jockey Club, and is not open for the purpose of entertainment, unless during the racing periods, and then only for members of the club. The market-house, a plain structure, stands in the centre of the market-square, an area of triangular shape; and conveniently to it is the fountain from which the town is supplied with water. At the residence of the Protestant clergyman, in this vicinity, is the ruin of an ancient castle, in a state of fine preservation, which is connected with the house, and occupied as a portion of it. Its hoary summit can be seen from a considerable distance, and together with the magnificent ecclesiastical ruins already mentioned, impresses the visitor with elevated notions of the former dignity and importance of this justly celebrated place. A charter of incorporation was granted to this town by James II., under which it continued to send two members to the Irish parliament till the passing of the Act of Union, when the borough was disfranchised, and the sum of £15,000, awarded as compensation, was paid to William, Duke of Leinster. The market is held on Thursday, and there are six fairs in the year.

On leaving Kildare, the tourist, availing himself of the facility afforded by the railway, will in a comparatively short space of time arrive at Monastereven, a very convenient, as well as a very desirable resting-place. Its fine situation on the eastern bank of the river Barrow, and its contiguity to Moore Abbey, the grand seat of the Most Noble the Marquis of Drogheda, invest it with attractions of a more than ordinary character. This town, thus favourably situated, consists chiefly of two principal streets, called after the noble proprietor, Moore Street and Drogheda Street. The first of these streets constitutes what may, not improperly, be called the Mall, as it forms a healthful and agreeable promenade. The eastern side of this street only is occupied with houses, the opposite, or western side, being laid out and divided into gardens, which slope down to the margin of the river, and are nicely planted, and enriched with shrubs and flowers. The Drogheda Arms Hotel is situated in this street, where the visitor, through the influence of the proprietor, Mr. Kelly, can obtain access to the gardens, and also the privilege of fishing the river, where abundance of sport awaits him. In the fine open space opposite the entrance to Moore Abbey, is situated the market-house, a commodious, but plain structure; and at a short distance from it, the large house formerly used as the Drogheda Arms Hotel. From the change that followed the opening of the railway to the town, and the consequent withdrawal of the several coaches which were wont to pass through it, a much smaller establishment is now sufficient for the requirements of the public. The Protestant church is situated in this part of the town, and is a plain but tolerably large edifice, with a square and lofty embattled tower. Buttresses, ending in pinnacles, rise on each angle of the tower, and, like the tower itself, are nearly covered with an uncommonly rich and luxuriant mantle of ivy.

The Catholic church is one of the finest buildings to be seen in any town of this class in Ireland. It has been built from a plan of William Deane Butler, Esq., of Stephen's Green, Dublin, whose taste and skill as an architect have been rendered manifest in many remarkable instances, but in none more fully and strikingly than in that of the new Roman Catholic cathedral of Kilkenny. The extent of the Monastereven church, independently of its projections, may be set down at about 150 feet by 52 feet. The style of architecture is what may be called the early English, which prevailed soon after the arrival of the English in the twelfth century. It may be said to consist of two towers and a vestibule in front, the "Bella" or chapel, and a vestry of polygonal form, having five sides, with a window in each corresponding with those in the sides of the church. The side walls of the chapel are carried up with well-proportioned buttresses having their first water-tables at the height of 20 feet, the lower parts of which meet a fine bold stringcourse. These buttresses disappear with the second water-tables, under a blocking course supported by a row of corbelling which surrounds the whole church. The front towers,

which at this time were not entirely finished, were designed to terminate in four circular minarets, and a lofty central one, rising to a height of 115 feet. These towers, which extend considerably beyond the side walls of the main building, are very handsome—their doors, windows, and various ornaments being perfectly in keeping with the other parts of the church. Between the towers is the great door, which, with its deep recess, and richly-panelled mouldings, is a magnificent feature. Above the door rises an ornamental trifolium, with a massive pediment and characteristic cross. The splendid window immediately above the grand entrance in the fine gabled front, excites in an especial manner the admiration of the visitor. It is 35 feet in height, 18 in width, and is unquestionably one of the most perfect and beautiful specimens of the kind to be seen in any of the provincial churches in this country. The eastern gable is surmounted by a characteristic belfry, supporting a plain cross. The body of the masonry being of dark limestone, and the ornamental parts of fine granite, presents a very striking and agreeable contrast. The front is composed entirely of granite. The interior is in harmony with the beautiful exterior. The grand altar stands beneath a magnificent arch 50 feet in height, and is divided from the extremity of the chancel by a rich and lofty screen, the upper part of which is of ornamental open-work, which admits the reflection of the stained-glass windows that light and adorn the sanctuary. There are no galleries in this church; but within an ample arch in the western end, a space has been prepared for the reception of an organ. The residence of the parish priest is convenient to the church, and the school in connection with the National Board, at a short distance from it.

The distillery and numerous stores of Mr. Cassidy enable the visitor to form a tolerable notion of the great advantage the town derives from his enterprise and public spirit. The situation of the town on the border of the Grand Canal confers considerable advantages upon it in a business point of view, as it is brought into direct communication with Dublin, Waterford, and several other places. Its progress, however, in this respect, is far from being commensurate with what might naturally be expected from its local position. It is a parish in the barony of West Offaley, about fifteen miles from Naas, and thirty from Dublin, and derives its name from a monastery founded here by St. Abban in the seventh century, in which monks were placed by St. Evin. This monastery having been allowed to fall into decay, became nearly extinct, but was refounded in the twelfth century by Dermod O'Dempsey, King of Offaley. Although considerably beyond the borders of the English pale, it was made a mitred abbey, and its abbot sat as a baron in the Irish parliament. At the period of the dissolution of religious houses, the abbey and manor were granted to George, Lord Audley, who afterwards assigned them to Adam Loftus, Viscount Ely. They are now the property of the Marquis of Drogheda, whose family name has been bestowed upon

the abbey. Moore Abbey, as it appears at present, is a very beautiful seat, and is every way worthy of the tourist's notice. The splendid mansion, which is in the enriched Gothic style of architecture, has been erected on the site of the ancient abbey, which occupied the northern extremity of the extensive lawn, and on the eastern bank of the river Barrow, by which the demesne is margined. The south front of this noble building shows a magnificent façade, consisting of a centre and two projecting wings—the centre displaying four stories and the wings three, the whole surrounded by a corbelled cornice, surmounted by an embrasured parapet. The grand entrance is approached by a broad flight of steps, which leads to a porch with a rich Gothic door, and a window of the same character on each side. Beyond the porch, on each side, are three windows, with two in each side of the basement story, and seven in each of the two upper stories. The wings display four windows in each story of their handsome fronts, and two in each story of their projecting sides. East of the mansion is the flower-garden, or beautiful parterre, with its rich ample terrace, defined by granite boundaries, extending before the elegant front, and dividing it from the charming floral enclosure. This side of the mansion, including the terrace and the lovely parterre, which is exquisitely laid out, and ornamented with elegant statuary, is held sacred by the Marchioness, and is the only part of the splendid demesne and picturesque grounds which is not open to strangers. Considerable improvements were at this time being made on parts of the mansion, among which a fine billiard-room was in progress of erection on the north side of it. The stables, which are constructed of granite, form three sides of an oblong, with a handsome square building in the middle of the central range, in which is a large clock. The coach-houses, stables, and other offices, are entered by doors, which are formed within elliptic Gothic arches, a range of which extends along each side of the under story, while a line of handsome windows occupies the entire of the upper story. All the doors and windows of this grand mansion, and its various offices, are in the Gothic style, and, from their ecclesiastical character, are in keeping with its early, and even its modern, appellation of abbey. Before the south and east fronts spreads the ample lawn, which displays a gradual elevation in the distance, and is enriched and interspersed with handsome trees of fine growth and vigour, while from the western front may be seen the Barrow winding between verdant banks, which are diversified and ornamented with fine plantations. This magnificent demesne comprises about 1,100 acres, and is intersected by the river Barrow, which enters it beneath a new bridge of some half-dozen arches, near the grand entrance. A new gateway, with an ample semicircular sweep, and an elegant gate-lodge, in the true Elizabethan style, were being erected, and in a forward state, when I paid my visit. The following are the dimensions of some of the principal apartments of this noble mansion :—The hall is 54 feet in length by

12 in breadth, and is wainscoted with a light-coloured oak: when lighted up at night it appears to the greatest advantage. The library is 45 feet in length, and 18 in breadth; the drawing-room, 36 feet by 25; and the billiard-room, 33 feet by 23. There are six other apartments on the same floor, consisting of the boudoir and dressing-room of the Marchioness, the sitting-room and dressing-room of the Marquis, and the sitting and dressing-room of her ladyship's principal attendant. The bed-rooms are twenty in number; and the basement story is replete with everything appertaining to domestic comfort. There is a fire-safe in the centre of the building, and the mansion is secured from the danger of destruction by means of a large water-tank on the top of the roof, from which the water can be conveyed round the parapet, and, with the assistance of a hose, may be brought to act through each window of the house.

In the northern extremity of the town the visitor becomes struck with the number and character of the bridges and works which were erected for the public convenience, and the advantage of traffic by the canal. These several works must have absorbed a very considerable sum of money. The most important as well as the most extensive of these bridges, is that which has been constructed by the railway company, at an expense of £10,000. It is composed of iron trellis-work, and is supported on ten piers, including those which adjoin the earthworks. It is of considerable span, and comprehends not only the river Barrow, but the widely-spreading verdant banks on each side of it, which, in rainy weather, are subject to be overflown by the swollen flood. About a quarter of a mile from the railway station the canal is crossed by an old and plain bridge, which rises considerably in the centre; it is a very strong structure, and is called the high bridge. At some distance from the railway bridge, in an opposite direction, is the Pass Bridge, so called from the circumstance of Oliver Cromwell having passed over it when in this part of Ireland. It crosses the river Barrow, and, like most of the old bridges, rises considerably in the centre.

Having indulged his curiosity in viewing everything of interest in Monastereven and its vicinity, the tourist may, with perfect convenience, proceed to Naas, which was formerly a place of considerable importance, and occasionally the residence of the kings of Leinster. This town is a parish, partly in the barony of South Salt, but chiefly in that of North Naas, about eighteen miles from Athy, and sixteen from Dublin. It is favourably situated in a fertile district, which, unlike the generality of Kildare County, so remarkable for its tame and flat surface, is of a gently undulating character, diversified with fine plantations, and enriched on the south-west by the bold and varied outline of the Wicklow mountains. It may be said to consist of one principal street, of ample width, about half a mile in length, in which are several good houses and neat shops, the whole presenting to the visitor a gratifying appearance of comparative comfort and

prosperity. The market-house, erected many years since by the Earl of Mayo, the owner of the property on which the town stands, is a neat and convenient structure. The markets are held on Monday and Thursday, and are well supplied with all the prime necessaries of life, especially poultry. The Court House, situated in the centre of the town, is a handsome building, consisting of a centre and two wings, faced with granite. It was erected by Mr. Morrison, of Dublin, and, in its style and appearance, greatly resembles the court-house of Wexford, which was built by the same architect. The assizes are held alternately here and at Athy, the Lent sitting taking place in this town. The county jail, erected in 1833, at an expense of £14,000, is a substantial building, constructed of hewn limestone. Like most of the modern buildings of the same class, it is constructed on the radiating principle, and consists of four detached ranges of building, one of which contains an apartment for debtors. The entrance is by a massive door between two semicircular bastions, which give it a strong and formidable appearance. The military barracks, capable of accommodating about 400 infantry, are healthfully situated, at the distance of a quarter of a mile from the town, and, together with the attached hospital and other adjuncts, form a large pile of building. Above the central range appears an ornamental cupola. Soon after the invasion of this country by the English, Naas was granted by John Earl of Moreton, afterwards King of England, to William Fitz-Maurice. From its favourable position within the English pale, it soon became a place of importance, and was surrounded by a defensive wall, and fortified by several strong castles. In the twelfth century, as we are informed, a priory was founded here by the Baron of Naas, for Canons Regular of the Augustinian order, and dedicated to St. John the Baptist. This institution continued to flourish until the year 1316, when, together with the town, it was sacked by the Scots, under Edward Bruce, but it was soon after restored and rendered available for the pious purpose for which it was founded. In the year 1355, it appears, a convent for Dominican friars was founded here by Fitz-Eustace. So early as the reign of Henry V., we find that the town was governed by a corporation, as that monarch granted to the portreeve, burgesses, and commonalty of the town of Naas, certain tolls, for the term of twenty years, to enable them to keep up the wall of the town. In 1419, a parliament was held here: and in 1484, a convent for Friars Eremites, was founded in the town, but the name of the founder is unknown. In the year 1534, Lord Thomas Fitz-Gerald, commonly called "Silken Thomas," having rushed into rebellion, took possession of Naas, but was soon dispossessed by the Lord-Deputy Skeffington. In 1569, Queen Elizabeth granted a charter of incorporation to the town, without making the slightest allusion to any former one. This charter was confirmed and extended by James I. in 1609. A charter was likewise granted by Charles II., but the town continued

invariably to be governed by those of Elizabeth and James I. In 1643, Naas was garrisoned by the Earl of Ormonde, but after much suffering on the part of the inhabitants, it was taken for Cromwell by Colonels Hewson and Reynolds in 1650. The Protestant church is a handsome edifice, in the early English style, with a massive tower, of subsequent erection, still unfinished. The glebe-house is an interesting and antique structure, being a portion of one of the many castles for which Naas was so early celebrated. The glebe comprises about thirty-four acres. The traveller, in passing through the various towns in this country, however he may regret the absence of general advancement, cannot fail to notice the manifestations of zeal and taste that are displayed in the numerous Catholic churches which are everywhere rising into existence. In fact, it is almost a matter of astonishment to a native, and still greater, if possible, to a stranger, to witness such evidences of attachment to the ancient religion of the country as are demonstrated in the voluntary sacrifices that are made by the great body of the people, even in the worst of times, for such a high and holy purpose. Let those who would seek to restrict and suppress the free exercise and observance of religious rites visit Ireland, and behold a country where, even within the last half century, it was an offence against the law to have a belfry attached to a Roman Catholic place of worship; but where, at present, innumerable campaniles and church towers, whose light and elegant spires may be said to pierce the clouds, which, like those that are to be seen at Wexford and elsewhere, rival in elevation the beautiful turrets of the renowned and venerable Westminster Abbey, or the splendid western turrets of the magnificent St. Paul's. Here, indeed, is a lesson for those who would resort to legislative enactments and penal statutes for the purpose of weakening or destroying the attachment of the conscientious Christian to the religion of his conviction and his heart. I have been led into these reflections by having carefully examined the several new and beautiful Roman Catholic churches which fell under my observation in many parts of Ireland, and especially those of Newbridge, Kildare, Monastereven, and Naas, in this county. That of Naas is a fine oblong building, in the Early English style of architecture, 100 feet in length, and 50 in breadth, independently of the sacristy and the tower. The walls are about 40 feet in height, with four fine Gothic windows of two mullions in each side. A magnificent tower, 30 feet square, rises on the western end of the church, and is built of a dark bluish stone, with granite buttresses. The window-edgings, door-jambs, and other ornamental parts, are also of granite. The tower, including the spire, which was at this time being built, is 200 feet high. There is a door in each side of the tower, and one in each extremity of the front which extends beyond it. The gallery is entered from the ample room on the first floor of the tower. Above this room is the ringing-chamber, which contains the fine bell, of 27 cwt. The chancel, within which stands the altar, is ornamented

with pinnacles and other decorations; and the eastern gable of the building, and also the tops of the pinnacles, are enriched with neat crosses. The interior of the church is divided into a nave and aisles by wooden piers, from which spring corresponding arches. There is a deep gallery in the western end, and in the rear of it the organ-gallery. The nunnery, with its elegant chapel and school-house, is situated on the north-west of the church. This very beautiful and interesting convent is margined on the north by a fine clear river, and decorated on the south side, and before the eastern front, by well-laid-out and tastefully planted grounds. The church is dedicated to St. David, and the ladies of the convent are of the Presentation order. There are some fine seats in this neighbourhood, among the most remarkable of which is Palmerstown, the seat of the Earl of Mayo, which is a very large mansion, with a domestic chapel attached. It is situated in a fine demesne, the grounds of which are richly planted, and kept in excellent order. Of the several monasteries erected here, and which, up to the period of the Dissolution, continued to subsist in their integrity, there are at present few remains. In fact, the only monuments of antiquity now extant are the Moat and St. David's Castle, the present glebe-house. Adjoining the church and the glebe-house is a very handsome cemetery, which is richly planted, and intersected with nice walks, which give it an exceedingly interesting appearance. At one extremity of the town is situated one of the artificial mounds known under the general denomination of "raths," at the foot of which are the ruins of one of the religious houses founded in the year 1484, the only remains of which are portions of the dilapidated walls.

Passing northward from the county of Kildare into that of Meath, the tourist will very soon notice the superior quality of the land, which, although bearing a strong resemblance to that of the former county in its level and champaign character, is much more rich and fertile. From its characteristic richness, Meath, as well as the adjoining county, designated Westmeath, with, as we have reason to believe, portions of Longford, Cavan, Kildare, and the King's County, constituted the kingdom of the monarch of Ireland—the whole island, previously to the defection of Dermot MacMurrough, King of Leinster, and the consequent introduction of the English, being a pentarchal government, consisting of the monarch and the four provincial kings, each, however, exercising within his own dominions independent sway and control. On the arrival of Henry II. in this country, the lands of the monarch, or a great portion of them, consisting of 800,000 acres, were settled on his favourite, Hugh de Lacy, to hold by the service of fifty knights. De Lacy, on being created Constable, by the virtue of his office, became invested with palatine powers, and hence we find that he bestowed portions of these princely possessions upon several of his friends and followers. To Gilbert de Nugent, the founder of the noble family of Westmeath, he conveyed by charter

that portion of these lands afterwards known as the barony of Delvin. To Gilbert Nangle and his son, Jocelyn, he made grants of the lands of Morgallion, Navan, and Ardbracan. To Adam Pheibo he gave the district and manor of Skreen; to Robert Misset the lands of Lune; and to Gilbert Fitz-Thomas, Kells. These, and many others of the English adventurers, who attached themselves to the fortunes of De Lacy, continued to exercise baronial rights in this part of the island. The great palatine himself, whose first wife died subsequently to his arrival in this country, contracted a marriage with the daughter of Roderic O'Connor, the last monarch of Ireland, and about this time affected great state, wearing, as we are told, a crown of gold, and imitating royalty itself. The style in which he lived, and his general demeanour, excited, as we are informed, the jealousy of the naturally suspicious Henry, who, it appears, was not slow in signifying his displeasure at the haughty bearing of his lieutenant. De Lacy had at this time been appointed Lord-Deputy, in the room of William Fitz-Aldelm, who, in the year 1178, being considered deficient in military talents, was removed from that important office. The suspicions of the king regarding the conduct of the new deputy were increased by reason of his having married the daughter of Roderic, King of Connaught, without asking his permission, and the result was, his removal from his office of Lord-Deputy by the displeased monarch. His exclusion from power, however, and from the confidence and favour of his sovereign, was but of short duration; as the readiness with which he resigned his very important trust, in conformity with the orders of the king, and the clear and satisfactory explanations he was enabled to render, had such an effect on the mind of the monarch, and so completely removed his suspicions, that at the end of three months he was reinstated in his high office as head of the government. It has been said that it was the good fortune of this nobleman, during the different periods of his government, to have so far conciliated the good opinion of those over whom he was placed, as to have been alike popular with the English settlers and the natives. During the latter part of his administration, he was chiefly employed in building castles for the protection of Leinster, having previously sufficiently strengthened and fortified his own territory of Meath. More than a dozen names of places where he had erected castles will be found enumerated by the chroniclers and historians, while particular mention is made of two monasteries built by him in Meath, one at Duleek, and the other at Colpe, anciently Invercolpa, at the mouth of the Boyne. It was while engaged in erecting a castle at Durrow, in the southern part of ancient Meath, on a spot, as we are told, held in the highest veneration by the natives, it being the site of a monastery founded by their great saint, Columba, that De Lacy met his death. He was in the habit of superintending the building, and had gone forth to make his daily inspection of the works, attended by three English soldiers and an Irish labourer; and while he was in the act

of stooping down to mark out the line of some particular wall or trench, the Irish workman drew forth a battle-axe which he had concealed beneath his mantle, no doubt for the purpose, and, at a single blow, struck off the palatine's head. The assassin ran into a neighbouring wood, and being in all probability favoured by the country people, continued to elude all pursuit.

"Thus fell, in the year 1186," says the historian, "one of the most powerful and sagacious founders of the English domination in this country." The lands of Meath devolved upon his eldest son, Walter, then a minor, who, dying without male issue, was succeeded in his extensive possessions by his two daughters, Margaret and Matilda, the former of whom was married to Theobald de Verdon, and the latter to Geoffrey de Geneville. Hugh, the other son of the Great Constable, like his father, stood high in the favour of the King of England, and soon after the accession of John to the throne, was appointed by that monarch to carry on the government of Ireland. This important post had previously been filled by John de Courcy, Earl of Ulster, who, finding himself unfairly, as he considered, supplanted by De Lacy, retired dissatisfied to his own possessions in Ulster, and there assumed, in the midst of his followers and dependents, such an attitude of independence as threatened danger to the English interests in that province. In the year 1205, alarming instances of rivalry between some of the most wealthy and powerful barons in the English interest began to display themselves. In no case, however, were these feuds more strikingly exemplified than between De Courcy and De Lacy. Following the example of De Courcy, this baron had assumed a state of princely independence, and arrogated to himself the right of entering into treaties with his brother barons and the native chiefs, and aiding their local and provincial feuds. On the accession of John to the throne, it was known that De Courcy spoke of that event, and of the dark and guilty deed by which it was followed, with such daring openness and indiscretion, as quickly drew down on him the king's heaviest vengeance; and to his rival, Hugh de Lacy, now made Lord-Justice, was committed the by no means unwelcome task of seizing the contumacious baron, and sending him prisoner to England. Soon after this event, both the title and property of the earldom of Ulster were conferred by the king on his favourite, Hugh de Lacy. In the year 1210, King John, on his visit to Ireland, after remaining two days in Dublin, fixed his abode in the ancient castle of Carrickfergus, where he remained for ten days. It appears that on this occasion the monarch was disposed to call to account some of the English barons for their rapacious tyranny and misrule; and accordingly we find that many of these lords, and, amongst others, the two De Lacys, being struck with alarm at the consciousness of their misdeeds, precipitously fled from the kingdom. Walter and Hugh de Lacy fled to France, where they lived in concealment, having found employment as garden labourers at the abbey of St.

Taurin. Here they continued for two years, when the abbot, induced by some circumstances to suspect their real rank, drew from them the particulars of their interesting story; and being impelled by feelings of sympathy for their altered circumstances, appealed on their behalf to the clemency of the king, and succeeded in prevailing upon him to receive them again into favour. They were accordingly reinstated in their possessions, on the condition of Walter paying 2,500 marks for Meath, and Hugh, on his part, paying 4,000 for the earldom of Ulster. Like his brother, Hugh de Lacy died without male issue, and was succeeded by Walter de Burgh, who married his daughter, in the earldom of Ulster. In consequence of his marriage with the heiress of De Lacy, this nobleman, who was considered as the head of the great house of De Burgh, became possessed of immense power, which became still more increased in the person of his son and successor, Richard, commonly called the Red Earl. Thus we find that the titles and large possessions of the palatine, Hugh de Lacy, and his two sons, Walter and Hugh, in default of male issue, devolved upon strangers. Although, as we are informed, the large possessions of the heads of this powerful family, for want of male heirs, passed into other hands, we also find, that in some years after, persons of great distinction of the same name took a prominent part in the wars which grew out of the invasion of Edward Bruce. It is supposed that the Lacys here mentioned were the descendants of Robert de Lacy, to whom Hugh de Lacy had granted the lands of Rathwire, and, as the male kinsmen of the great palatine, were induced to lend their assistance to the Bruces on account of the relationship which existed between King Robert and the heads of their family—as that renowned monarch was married, in 1302, to the daughter of De Burgh, Earl of Ulster, and grand-daughter to Hugh de Lacy the younger. The family of the Lacys in Ireland derive their origin from Normandy; Walter and Ilbert de Lacy having accompanied Duke William, called the Conqueror, to England, had, as a matter of course, a share in the conquest of that kingdom, and were amply rewarded with donations in lands by that prince. Hugh, the grandson of Walter de Lacy, accompanied Henry II. to Ireland, in 1172. As before stated, the king, to reward him for his services in England and Ireland, bestowed upon him, for the service of fifty knights, the territory of Meath, to be possessed by him and his descendants in the same manner in which it was held by Murchard O'Melochlin, the ancient proprietor of the district. Having thus alluded to the principal events in the life of this noble adventurer, and also to the manner in which he came by his death, I have now only to add, that his body, after having been concealed for some time, was ultimately buried, with great pomp, in the abbey of Bectine, on the river Boyne, by Matthew O'Henry, Archbishop of Cashel and apostolical legate, assisted by John Comyn, Archbishop of Dublin. His head was conveyed to Dublin, and buried with his first wife, Rosa de Munemnene, in the abbey of Thomas

Court. The posterity of Ilbert de Lacy, of whom mention has been made, settled in England, when the Conqueror bestowed on him very large possessions, including the castle and lordship of Pontefract, in the county of York, and several estates in the county of Lancaster and elsewhere, amounting altogether, as we are told, to the large number of a hundred and fifty lordships.

Thus glancing at some of the most remarkable events in connection with this county, I shall now proceed to notice some of its towns and ancient monuments as they present themselves to the curious and intelligent traveller of the present day—commencing first with Navan, which is a good business town, favourably situated on the banks of the rivers Blackwater and Boyne. The latter river flows beneath a bridge of nine arches, and receives the Blackwater soon after its passage under a bridge of six arches, and, enlarged by this junction, pursues its meandering course in an easterly direction to Drogheda, where it falls into the sea. These rivers afford a great water power, which has been rendered available for milling purposes. Near the bridge which crosses the Boyne are very large flour-mills, some of them seven stories in height, which were built by the late Mr. Delaney, whose son and representative had, at this time, recently sold them to the firm of Malcomson and Company. Messrs. Byrne, Spicer, and Mullen are also the proprietors of extensive mills on the Boyne, while Messrs. Morgan, Bradley, and Skelly, work others of large size on the Blackwater. A brisk trade is carried on in provisions with the town of Drogheda, which became considerably increased some years ago by the extensive project, the opening of the Boyne Navigation, on that part of the river between these towns, for a distance of fifteen miles. The facility thus afforded for the conveyance of the agricultural produce to the port of Drogheda, causes the markets, which are held on Wednesday, to be well attended, while the fairs, which were heretofore limited by charter to four in the year, were at this time deemed insufficient for the business of the town and the requirements of the district. The extension of the Drogheda line of railway to Navan, Kells, and Duleek, has doubtless had a tendency to increase the general traffic of the county. Among the public-spirited gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood who were impressed with the necessity of increasing the fairs at Navan, Mr. Matthew Kealy, an intelligent and enterprising local merchant, was the most zealous and prominent. He, being a man of great energy of character and enlargement of mind, not only advocated the establishment of additional fairs, but even went a step in advance of those who were favourable to such additional accommodation for the owners and purchasers of stock, by strongly recommending the starting and establishing of a provincial fair, to be held at Navan, which should be called the "Great Leinster Fair." This, it must be confessed, was a bold as well as a grand project, which, considering the size and character of the town, could scarcely be expected to succeed. But

still, from its central situation in the heart of a fine breeding country, and with its easy transit both by water and railway to Drogheda, and thence by first-class steamers to Liverpool, and also by its facility of intercourse with Dublin, its promoters, and especially its indefatigable advocate, Mr. Kealy, contended that it was not only a feasible project, but that it was an absolute desideratum, and accordingly, in the month of November, 1854, the first opening of the Leinster Fair took place.

The town may be said to consist of three principal streets, from which branch several smaller ones. Many of the houses are neat and well built, and the shops very respectable. The Protestant church, a fine building in the later English style of architecture, is situated on an eminence in the rear of the town. With the exception of the tower, which is of considerable antiquity and elegant design, the entire edifice was rebuilt in the year 1818, at an expense of £1,700. The interior is neat and commodious, and contains a handsome organ. The venerable tower is decorated with pinnacles, and, being richly coated with ivy, has a very peculiar and striking appearance. There is a handsome projection on the north side of the church, in which is the entrance, by a comparatively plain door, above which is a handsome window of four mullions. Ornamental pinnacles also rise on the angles of the church and the front projection. The Catholic church is situated in the northern suburbs, at an inconsiderable distance from the church of the Establishment. It is a plain-looking but most commodious house of worship, of oblong form, 120 feet in length by 80 feet in breadth. It is surrounded on three of its sides by handsome galleries, the part underneath being lighted by square domestic windows, and the galleries by semicircular ones. The principal front displays itself to the south, with a large door in each of its extremities, beneath a finely-rounded arch. Above each door, and in the centre of the front, is a handsome semicircular window. Immediately over the central window, on the summit of the front, rises a well-proportioned plain cross. The grand altar is approached by six steps, within a semicircular railing, and the side altars stand before large oblong niches, in which there is on one side a beautiful image of the Virgin, and in the other a fine representation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The ceiling is richly panelled, and forms an immense semicircle, radiating from the chancel or altar end. In front of the church, but considerably detached from it, stands a campanile of enriched Gothic character, from the centre of which rises a square slender tower, the summit of which is on a level with the apex of the gable of the church. In this turret is a good bell. The parochial-house, a very fine mansion, is situated in the immediate vicinity of the church; and in its vicinity, also, is situated the convent of the Nuns of the order of Loretto. In this neighbourhood, likewise, are schools for males, under the National Board of Education. The Roman Catholic Seminary, with its new school-house and chapel, is situated in the southern part of the town, at a short distance from the railway station. The Rev.

Nicholas Power is the president of this seat of learning. The county infirmary is situated in this town. There is a branch of the Belfast bank here, and also a savings-bank, a small prison, and a police barrack. The extensive fair-green is conveniently situated in the western suburbs, at a short distance from one of the ancient earthworks or raths so frequently to be met with in various parts of this country. The Court House or Tholsel is centrally situated, and contains the requisite apartments for holding the Quarter Sessions, and also a suite of assembly rooms. An abbey for Canons Regular, of the order of St. Augustine was founded here, in the latter part of the twelfth century, by a member of the Nangle family, the head of which was Baron of Navan. The military barrack, capable of accommodating about one troop of horse, occupies the site of this ancient abbey.

On arriving at Kells in this county, the tourist becomes impressed with very favourable notions regarding it, the streets being spacious and regular, and the houses, for the most part, well built, while the shops in general present a neat and business-like appearance. The principal street, which is about one-third of a mile in length, extends from the Court House—a fine substantial building, which occupies a handsome site at the angle formed by the junction of the Dublin and Drogheda roads with the said street—at the eastern extremity of the town, to the Protestant church, which stands within the nice churchyard, on a gradual elevation that forms its western extremity. Advancing from this point, the visitor becomes struck with the fine Catholic church, which is situated within a cluster of luxuriant trees, on the south side of the street, nearly opposite the principal hotel, kept by Mr. Hanlon, and at a short distance from the National Bank. It is a handsome cruciform edifice about 110 feet in length, the nave being 50 feet in breadth, and the transepts 30, with a pinnacled tower at the end of the nave. This substantial church was erected in 1798 on a plot of ground given by the Marquis of Headfort, who contributed liberally towards the building, and presented a splendid painting of the "Assumption," which he selected at Rome, for the altar-piece. Immediately west of the church is the parochial-house, a very neat residence, occupied by the parish priest and his curates. West of the parochial-house, on the same side of the street, is the convent of the Sisters of Mercy, and very close to it the fine school built under a bequest made by the late Miss Dempsey. A school under the Christian Brothers adjoins the female school, and renders the interesting group, comprising the church, the parochial-house, the nunnery, and the male and female schools, an enlarged and strikingly beautiful feature, every way worthy of the ancient character of this renowned and pious locality. The Protestant church is a large but plain building, with a deep gallery, in the rear of which is the fine organ presented to the church by the late Archdeacon De Lacy. On the north side of the church is a fine semicircular gallery appropriated to the Marquis of Headfort and family. There is a monument in the church to a member

of this most noble family, and several others of comparatively recent date. The bell tower, which was attached to the ancient church, stands about 16 feet north of the present building. It is of three stages, and is surmounted by a handsome octagonal spire. An inscription above the entrance, which is in the south side, states that the tower was partially restored in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. On the face of this structure there are also three busts, one of which represents a bishop, and the others dignitaries of a minor grade. It likewise bears an inscription which records the rebuilding of the church, in the year 1783, by Hugh Brady, Bishop of Meath. One of the ancient round towers, so interesting in the eyes of the learned and profound antiquarian, stands about 60 feet south-west of the church, with the entrance to the north, about 6 feet from the ground. This tower, which is 90 feet in height, has no roof, but it shows the usual openings towards the four cardinal points at the top, and several smaller apertures at different stages of its elevation. A small ash tree, a curious object in such a position, appears growing out of a small fissure on the south-western part of the tower, at about the distance of half its height from the ground. Several large and curiously sculptured crosses are to be seen in this churchyard. That which was at the Dublin Exhibition stands a few feet north of the round tower. Various inscriptions having reference to Scriptural subjects appear on the pedestals and shafts of these crosses, and also on the encircling bands which enclose their heads. One of these, the largest in Ireland, appears in four different parts. Two of the fragments which constituted the shaft are near the western end of the church, the pedestal being at a considerable distance from them, and the rich head at the other side of the cemetery. Another remarkable and very curious cross, which was found some years ago beneath the ground in this churchyard, lies upon the flat surface. A fine representation of St. Patrick, with the crozier and shamrock, is perfectly visible upon it. At the entrance to Cross Street, which branches from the main street, and extends in a southerly direction, stands a very beatiful cross about 10 or 11 feet in height. The head of this fine specimen of these first of Christian symbols is also encircled by a band, upon which, as upon the pedestal, shaft, and arms, appear curiously wrought and finely sculptured devices, the whole referring to Scriptural subjects.

This town, anciently called Kenlis, which gives the inferior title of Baron Kenlis to the Marquis of Headfort, is a place of remote antiquity, and at an early period acquired considerable importance from the circumstance of a monastery for canons regular having been founded here by St. Columb in the year 550. This monastery, as we are informed, was erected on a site granted by M'Kervaill, King of Ireland. Having sustained considerable damage from the repeated incursions and ravages of the Danes, it was restored, in 806, by Cellach, the celebrated Abbot of Iona, who had sought refuge here from the Norwegians. In 1152 the memorable synod of the Irish clergy

was held here, at which Cardinal Paparo attended, and distributed to the four archbishops the palls sent to them by his Holiness the Pope. History informs us that in 1156 the whole town, with its churches and religious houses, was destroyed by fire. The monastery, on its restoration, soon after this calamity, was plundered by Dermot MacMurrough, who, in 1172, headed a party of English in the perpetration of this sacrilegious outrage. In the following year Hugh de Lacy bestowed on it such ample grants of land as justly entitled him to be looked upon as its second founder. In the reign of Richard I., Walter, the son of Hugh de Lacy, and his successor in the lands of Meath, founded a monastery here for Crouched Friars, and granted to the inhabitants a charter of incorporation, which invested them with privileges similar to those then enjoyed by the inhabitants of Bristol. Of the ancient abbey originally founded by St. Columb there are now no remains, while the only remnant of the monastery founded by Walter de Lacy is the cemetery. The same may be said of the castle, which was erected by Hugh de Lacy, in 1176, to defend the town from the incursions of the native septs. This castle, one of the oldest fortifications erected in this country, after the arrival of the English, was built in the street called after itself, Castle Street, which, branching from the main street, extends in a northerly direction, on a line with Cross Street, so that the castle and the handsome cross stood facing each other. In order to enlarge the street, and improve that part of the town, the castle, not many years ago, was removed, and hence one of the most ancient and important monuments of the English domination has disappeared. From the second year of the reign of Elizabeth till the Union the town sent two members to the Irish parliament. On the disfranchisement of the borough, the sum of £15,000, awarded as compensation, was paid to the Earl of Bective.

About a mile from the town is situated the fine seat of the Marquis of Headfort, the demesne of which comprises within the walls 1,200 acres, the whole being richly planted and intersected by the Blackwater, which, after entering the grounds, expands into a capacious lake. The mansion is a fine square courtly building, which shows its grand façade to the south, before which spreads a rich and very spacious lawn. The gardens are situated west of the mansion, and are remarkable for the curious specimens they contain of the Dutch garden style, which displays itself in elaborate and ingenious vegetable sculpture. This peculiar and interesting effect is produced by means of a large number of beautiful yew trees, of fine growth and long standing, upon which the skilful and well-practised hand of the gardener operates with such wonderful art as to produce a variety of curious and graceful objects, which are represented under different shapes and figures. At the entrance to the garden a very large tree of this species has been so fashioned as to form a noble arch, which resembles that of a bridge, with a semicircular turret on each side, which presents all the appearance of a defensive bastion. On entering

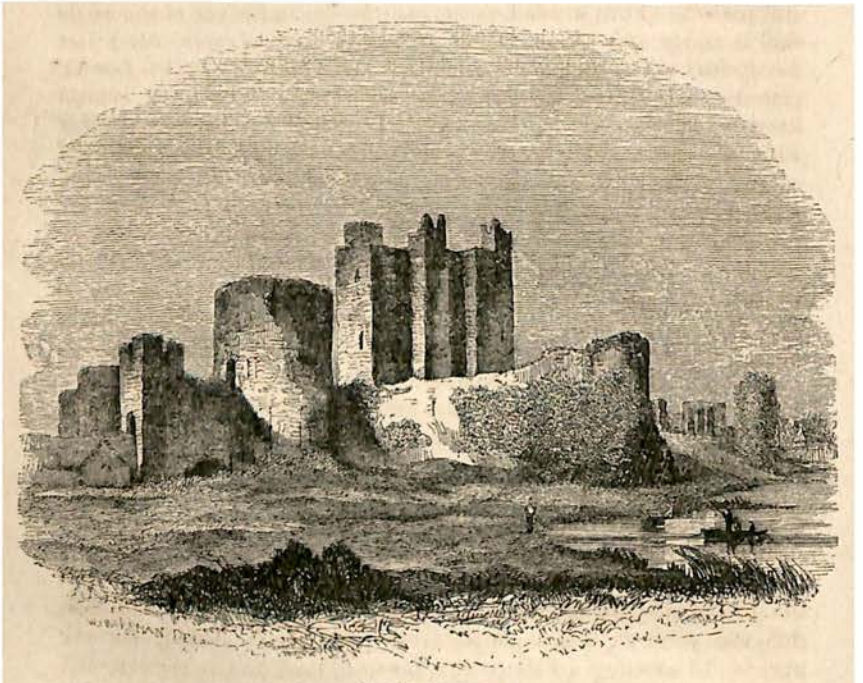
the garden, the visitor's astonishment becomes excited by the multiplicity of fanciful creations of this description which present themselves. These consist of pyramids, cones, square and circular towers and bastions, with their embrasure embattlements. In the middle of the garden is a magnificent series of arches, extending from a handsome centre, and showing four arches on either side, each of which is about 18 feet wide. Ornamental cones, acorns, and urns enrich and diversify the unbroken line which extends above the crowns of the arches along the whole range. While here I noticed a large and closely-cropped laurel, a luxuriant specimen of this beautiful plant, which is about 40 yards in circumference. This, indeed, is a very fine place, and amply requites for the time spent in paying it a visit.

Arriving at Trim, the Assize town of the county of Meath, the tourist, should he be imbued with a partiality for antiquarian research, will find abundant materials for the gratification of his predilection in the splendid ruins, both ecclesiastical and military, which are open to his observation. This town, which is a parish, partly in the barony of Upper Navan, but chiefly in that of Moyfenragh, about eleven miles from the railway station at Kilcock, and twenty-five from Dublin, does not appear, previously to the arrival of the English in this country, to have been a place of very considerable importance, except as regards its ecclesiastical character, as it was one of the oldest, if not the very oldest, of the Irish Episcopal sees. From the period, however, of the arrival of the English into Ireland, Trim became a place of very great importance, as to Hugh de Lacy, as before mentioned, Henry II., by an agreement entered into with him at Wexford, granted the lands of Meath, a territory extending from the river Shannon to the sea. On taking possession of these extensive lands, we find that De Lacy, after having made grants to several of his relatives and friends, reserved the greater portion of the principality to himself, and made Trim his chief residence, which thus became the head of the lordship. In 1173, he had completed the building of a strong castle, which he environed with a wide and deep ditch, and having provided it with all the necessary supplies he took his departure for England, leaving it in charge with Hugh Tyrrell. Soon after De Lacy's departure, we find that Roderic O'Connor, King of Connaught, assembled a large force with which he entered Meath, upon which Tyrrell despatched messengers to Earl Strongbow, requesting him to come to his aid, and finding himself too weak to resist so large a force, he abandoned the castle, having previously burned it. It appears that Roderic, being satisfied with the destruction of the castle, returned to his own country, and when Earl Strongbow, who advanced with the greatest expedition, arrived at Trim, he found that he had neither castle nor house to lodge in. He therefore at once set out in pursuit of the enemy, and falling in with their rear, killed, as we are told, 150 of them; after which he returned to Dublin, and Hugh Tyrrell to the ruined castle of Trim.

On the death of Hugh de Lacy, which, as before stated, took place in the year 1186, under peculiarly unfortunate circumstances, the lordship of Meath devolved on his eldest son Walter, who with his brother Hugh, Earl of Ulster, some years after fell under the displeasure of King John. In the year 1210, when that monarch visited Ireland, he, on his way from Waterford to Ulster, came to Trim, where he spent the second and third days of the month of July. At this time there was no castle in Trim fit for the reception of the king—at least he did not lodge in the castle. On the death of King John, on the 17th of October, 1216, one of the first acts of Henry III., his successor, was to conciliate the Irish barons, and to apologise for his father's harsh treatment of them; and especially to assure Hugh de Lacy of his restoration to the royal favour, on his return to his allegiance. Accordingly we find that Walter de Lacy in this year was one of the great barons, by whose counsel this monarch granted his great charter. This baron's great palatinate was divided between his co-heiresses, Margery, wife of John de Verdon, and Matilda, who married for her husband Peter de Genevre, at the suggestion of the king, Henry III., with whom he was a great favourite. Her second husband was Geoffrey de Geneville, or de Joinville, a native of Champagne, of illustrious birth, and brother to the famous Jean de Joinville, the friend and historian of St. Louis. This great statesman, says Hanmer, who was the confidential friend of Edward I., and was engaged by him in almost all the great transactions of this period, both at home and abroad, founded, in 1263, an abbey for Dominicans in Trim; and in 1273, after his return from the Holy Land, was appointed Lord-Justice of Ireland. The Irish annals mention the death of Sir Peter de Geneville in 1292, which nobleman was the son of Geoffrey and Matilda or Maud de Lacy, and father of Joan, who married Roger Mortimer. These annals also make mention of the death of Matilda or Maud Lacy, wife of Sir Geoffrey de Geneville, in 1302. On the same authority we find that on the 28th of October, 1308, Roger de Mortimer and his lady Joan, rightful heiress of Meath, daughter of Peter, son of Geoffrey de Geneville, arrived in Ireland. As soon as they landed they took possession of Meath, Sir Geoffrey ceding it to them, and entering himself into the order of Preaching Friars at Trim, on the 18th of November of the same year. The Irish annals record the death of this distinguished nobleman, which took place on the 19th of October, 1314, in the abbey of the Dominican Fathers, which he founded in 1263, and to which he retired, as above stated, in November, 1308. Roger Mortimer, who by act of parliament was declared heir to the throne of England after Richard II., was killed in an affray with the O'Byrnes and other Irish chieftains, on the borders of Kildare county.

On the invasion of Ireland by the Scots under Edward Bruce, the De Lacys enrolled themselves under his banner, deserting the standard of England, which was upheld in Ireland by their relative Roger

Mortimer, then Lord-Lieutenant. The most important of the castles built in this or perhaps in any part of Ireland, judging from the ruins as they now appear, was that of Trim, which was admirably situated on the east side of the town, and on the south or right bank of the river Boyne. It consisted of a large triangular area, enclosed within a strong defensive boundary wall, supported at intervals by circular flanking towers, with a massive and lofty donjon keep, of large dimensions, in the centre. The north-eastern side of the fortress faces the river Boyne, from which it is divided by a strip of meadow ground, which, when the river becomes swollen by floods, is inundated. This side of the strong boundary wall, portions of which



CASTLE OF TRIM.

have fallen, was 171 yards in length, and was defended by four flanking towers, one at each angle, and two in the intermediate space. The western side, which is in a more perfect state, faces the town, and forms a straight line 116 yards long, and was defended by a strong tower at each angle, and one of a peculiarly strong and dense character in the centre. In this tower was an entrance to the fortress by a massive gateway, beneath a lofty arch, the groove for the portcullis being still perfect. From the projecting masonry it would seem that there had been a drawbridge and barbacan to the gate. There was a ditch in front of this, as well as of the

southern side, which was supplied with water by the small stream that runs along the town wall by the Dublin gate. The third or southern side, which faces the open country, sweeps round in an easy course to the Boyne, and is 192 yards in length, and was defended by six strong towers, including that on each angle, and at the gate. The massive tower at this gate is circular, while that before mentioned on the western side, although rectangular at the base, is in the upper part octangular, which gives it a peculiar appearance. This tower and gateway are also in good preservation, as are the arches over the ditch, and the barbacan beyond it. This gate had likewise its portcullis, the groove for which, and the recess for its windlass, are still perfect. Thus it will be seen that the circumference of the castle wall is about 480 yards, which, with the enclosed area, comprises nearly four acres, the whole being defended externally by ten towers, placed at nearly equal distances from each other. The great central keep, which, properly speaking, may be called the castle, consists of a very large rectangular tower, about 60 feet in height, above the level of the ground. Before each side of this immense structure, rises another rectangular tower of the same height, which, while it occupies the greater portion of the front, leaves parts of it unoccupied, which parts extend for the distance of about 20 feet on each side of the attached and projecting auxiliary. The castle thus constructed may be said to consist of a cluster of five towers of square form, which constitute a figure of twenty sides, and before the use of artillery was well calculated to resist, and even to repel, a large number of assailants. The walls of the large central tower are 12 feet thick, and those of the external or smaller towers nearly 6 feet. In the north angle of the castle-yard are the ruins of some buildings, one of which, from its pointed gable, and the four large windows in the side which fronts the river, would lead to the supposition that it was a chapel. In the south-west angle, adjoining the flanking tower, a mound of earth has been thrown up to the height of the castle wall, filling the first and the second towers to their second stories. It is supposed that this was done at some comparatively subsequent period, for the purpose of erecting a battery for cannon to flank the town wall, and to defend the approach to the Dublin gate. The wall against which the mound of earth was thrown has fallen, but the towers remain, one of which has been lately cleared. The lower story of this tower led to the postern, at what was thought to be the level of the water in the ditch.

In the year 1406, we find that a parliament was held in Trim by Stephen Scrope, then Lord-Deputy under Richard II. In 1415, an Act of Henry V. recites and confirms all former grants made to the ancestors of Edmund Mortimer, Earl of March. Henry V. ascended the throne on the 20th of March, 1413. Immediately on his accession, the Earl of March, whose father had been declared by the English parliament heir-presumptive to the throne, in the event

of Richard II. dying without issue, and who was naturally an object of jealousy and suspicion in the eyes of Henry IV., signified his confidence in the young king by voluntarily placing himself in his hands. In August, 1415, the Earl not only refused to join the conspiracy of his brother-in-law, the Earl of Cambridge, one of whose avowed objects it was to place him on the throne, as the rightful heir of Edward III., but revealed it at once to the king.

The late Very Reverend Richard Butler, the Protestant Dean of Clonmacnois, in his "Notices of the Castle and the Ecclesiastical Buildings of Trim," recently published, and from which I have derived much valuable information, mentions that the famous Sir John Talbot, of Hallamshire, afterwards Lord Furnival, and Earl of Shrewsbury, who was Lord-Lieutenant in the reign of Henry V., was, through the Verdons, descended from the Lacys, and connected with the great lords of Meath. His brother, Richard Talbot, Archbishop of Dublin, was frequently Lord-Justice of Ireland. During his different lieutenancies, Talbot frequently resided at Trim, and there in all probability built the castle now occupied by the Rev. Mr. Hamilton, which in the town records is called Talbot's Castle. In the north wall of the west tower of this building a stone is inserted, bearing the Talbot arms. This house was formerly the Diocesan School of Meath, and built, as it was by the Earl of Shrewsbury, was afterwards the place of the education of the Duke of Wellington.

This Very Reverend writer says, that the De Lacys, the Mortimers, and the Talbots, all throw a splendour upon the ruins of Trim; but that the great claim of this distinguished neighbourhood on the interest of future generations will be its connection with the greatest of warriors, and the best of citizens. Dean Butler states, that the signature of A. Wesley is to every act of the corporation of Trim, from June, 1789, to September, 1793. For some portion of this time the embryo hero lived in the small five-windowed house, with a court before it, in Dublin Gate Street, which is now terminated with a column to his memory; but he principally resided at Fosterstown, now called Wellington on the Ordnance survey. The Very Reverend author relates the following anecdote of the young Arthur: "When he was at school in Trim he must have been a very little boy; for one of his school-fellows told me, that when Crosbie, afterwards Sir Edward, of balloon notoriety, had climbed to the top of the Yellow Steeple, and had thrown down his will, disposing of his game cocks and other boyish valuables, in case he should be killed in coming down, the future Iron Duke began to cry, when he found that nothing had been left to him." He also states, that a gentleman in Trim has a letter from Lord Wellesley, in which he states that the Lord-Lieutenant had been for two years under promise to procure a commission for his brother Arthur, and had not been able to fulfil it.

In 1416, the parliament, which the previous year had been called and holden in Dublin, was this year removed to Trim. Dean Butler

thinks it probable that the parliaments were held in the refectory of the Friars Minors, which stood on the site of the present Court House. We find that Edmund Mortimer, Earl of March, died in Trim, in the month of January, 1425. It will be remembered that this nobleman was the next heir to the crown, after the death of Richard II. He was the grandson of Edmund Mortimer, Earl of March, and of Philippa, only child of Lionel, Duke of Clarence. Having died without issue, he left to his sister Anne his princely estates, which we find consisted of Clare Castle, and many other manors in Suffolk; in Wales the Marches, from whence he took his title, with Wigmore in Herefordshire, and Ludlow in Shropshire; and in Ireland Meath, Connaught, and large lands in Ulster. This wealthy heiress was the mother of the Duke of York, father of Edward IV., and Richard III., to whom the whole of this great property descended.

Among the transactions recorded of the reign of Henry VI., it is mentioned, that on the 8th of August, 1435, the king granted his pardon to Richard, Duke of York, Earl of March and Ulster, Lord of Wigmore, Clare, Trim, and Connaught, who had taken the possession of the lands and castles of Edmund, late Earl of March, and also of those which were the dowry of Anne, late Countess of March. In 1449, Richard, Duke of York, was sent over to Ireland as Lord-Lieutenant, with almost royal authority, and by his mild and gentle behaviour, he so won upon the great feudal lords and the native Irish, that he reduced them to obedience without being under the necessity of resorting to force; and he so endeared himself to them that, with the exception of the family of Ormonde, they were always devoted to the service of himself and his family, even in their greatest misfortunes. In 1449 and 1450, this prince held his court in his hereditary castle of Trim, when in all probability he restored the castle to its former splendour. He was a benefactor to St. Mary's Abbey, to which house he gave, amongst other gifts, a field, called Porch Field; and the tower of the abbey now called the Yellow Steeple, may, it is thought, be assigned to his liberality; the church of this abbey, according to Pembridge, had been burned down in 1361. In the year 1460, the English parliament declared the Duke of York guilty of high treason, and confiscated his estates and those of his adherents. Under these circumstances the Duke passed over to England, accompanied by the flower of the Irish gentry, and especially the nobles of Meath; and having openly avowed his claim to the crown, was defeated and slain at the memorable battle of Wakefield, on the 31st of December, 1460. His son Edward, however, was more successful, and soon after established himself on the throne, and thus the lord of Meath became the king of England.

In the stormy period which followed the outbreak of 1641, we find that, like other strongholds in Ireland, the castle of Trim was an object of considerable importance in the estimation of the rival parties; and accordingly we find that Sir Charles Coote succeeded in taking

possession of it without bloodshed, in the month of May, 1642, the leaders of the confederate Catholics, lords Fingall, Gormanstown, Slane, and Trimblestown, having evacuated it on his approach. According to Lodge's account, the death of Sir Charles Coote took place at Trim, under the following circumstances: "The fortifications had been allowed to fall into decay, for at this time the town was encompassed with a stone wall, so old and ruinous as to afford in some places entrance to horse, over heaps of rubbish that lay beside the wall, through which the bold and savage Sir Charles Coote forced a passage. In the night, the enemy, in large numbers, advanced silently upon the town, but the sentinel giving the alarm, Sir Charles, who in expeditions never went to bed, was instantly on horseback, and with some seventeen troopers, which in the hurry of the moment were all he could collect, he advanced to the gates and charged the enemy, whom he threw into disorder, and soon obliged to fly. Pursuing them recklessly in the dark, he received a fatal shot in the body, whether from his own men or the enemy was never known, and expired May the 7th, 1642." In the month of July, 1649, Trim was taken possession of by the royalists under the Earl of Ormonde, who continued in the occupation of it until after the taking of Drogheda by Cromwell, when it fell into the hands of that general. It has been said, that the redoubted Oliver slept one night in the castle of Trim, and that he battered down part of the Yellow Steeple, and also blew up one of the towers of the castle, in the ruins of which, about a dozen years ago, was found a quantity of lead and iron balls. For these acts of the dread commander, however, we have no authority but tradition, and I would gladly exonerate the name of a brave man from the odium which must ever attach itself to what must be considered a species of vandalism, did not history furnish us with too many instances of his turpitude, which has been rendered startlingly manifest in the glaring and repeated acts of sacrilege which he either encouraged or tolerated.

The ecclesiastical history of Trim dates as far back as the introduction of Christianity into this country by St. Patrick. Soon after the conversion of King Laogare by our great apostle, we find that an abbey for canons regular was founded here, and dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. This establishment very soon became the seat of a small bishopric, of which St. Loman, nephew of St. Patrick, was the first bishop. St. Loman was succeeded by St. Fortchern, grandson of King Laogare, who occupied the see but for a short time, and surrendered the abbey of Trim. We are informed that Feidilmid, the son of Laogare, and the father of St. Fortchern, made grants of land in the neighbourhood of Trim to St. Patrick and St. Loman. In corroboration of this statement, we find that part of the lands of Crowpark adjoining the town is still the property of the see of Armagh, where, subsequently to the erection of the abbey of Trim, St. Patrick built his cathedral. In the reign of Henry IV. the Arch-

bishop of Armagh had a charge upon the crown of £8 16*s.* 7½*d.* for the site of the castle, tower, and bridge of Trim. St. Cormac, the nephew of the royal convert Laogare, a descendant of the great Hy-Nialls, was also Bishop of Trim, and was afterwards translated to the Archbishopric of Armagh by St. Patrick, who was then very old, and wholly intent on Divine contemplations. In an inquisition appointed by the crown in 1614, it was found that the Archbishop of Armagh was seized, in right of his see, of certain lands and tenements within the town of Trim. In the year 1152 the diocese of Trim was united with several others to form the see of Meath. The remains of St. Mary's Abbey, in which was preserved the image of the Virgin, that was removed at the Reformation, consist principally of part of the Yellow Steeple, a magnificent tower, one half of which, as before stated, was destroyed by Cromwell, against whom, according to tradition, it was garrisoned and defended for a considerable time. Taking the remains of this beautiful tower as a specimen of what the church was in its palmy days, one would be induced to believe that it was a really grand building, for a nobler fragment of antiquity it would be difficult to find in any part of the island. At some distance from this ruin is what might be supposed to have been the residence of the brotherhood of the monastery. It is a strong old-fashioned building, and appears to be that mentioned by Dean Butler as Talbot's Castle. It was in the year 1856 occupied by the Misses Hamilton, two sisters of the late Rev. Mr. Hamilton, curate to Dean Butler, then rector of the parish.

The church of St. Patrick, which is that of the Established Church, is situated on the north side of the river, within the ancient churchyard, where formerly stood a building of much greater extent, a portion of the remains of which lies east of the present edifice. This church was rebuilt in the year 1803, at an expense of about £750; and in the year 1827 a gallery was added, at a cost of £350, a loan from the late Board of First Fruits. It was subsequently repaired by a grant of £100 from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The tower of this church is of considerable antiquity, and is much inferior to that of the Yellow Steeple, although the opinion is entertained by some writers that they were both built by Richard, Duke of York, in the year 1449, who, while then in Ireland as Lord-Lieutenant, resided for some time in his hereditary castle of Trim. The same authorities incline to the belief that this church was then the church of the Friars Minors; and that the friary of the Franciscans stood on the site of the handsome Court House. The present building is of plain character, with the gallery running along the whole length of the north side. In the vestibule is to be seen a precious remnant of antiquity, while in the vestry are several interesting relics, all richly and carefully covered. There are several antique curiosities to be seen in the churchyard, consisting of fragments of stone carving, ancient tombs, and headstones. The door of the church is within a deeply-moulded elliptic Gothic arch, above the crown of which is a finely-carved male

human head. The cap moulding which rises above it springs from a beautiful female head on one side, and from a male head on the other. The bishops of Meath have always been enthroned in this church. The vicarage, the residence of the late Very Rev. Dean Butler, was built in 1752 by Dr. Adam Lyndon, then vicar, in a field of three acres, called the "Rector's Park." This house was enlarged by Dr. Foster, who was afterwards Bishop of Clogher, and is now a very handsome residence. It is situated immediately opposite the church, and enclosed within a handsome boundary wall, the annexed land being nicely laid out in parterres and gardens, which afford attestation of the taste and refinement of the Very Reverend dignitary then in the occupation of it. The glebe lands comprise about 185 acres. East of the town, and about half a mile from it, are the beautiful ruins of Newtown Abbey, with the grand church of St. Peter and St. Paul, which was a very extensive building, and, even in ruins, has a truly interesting appearance. The lofty pointed Gothic arches have still an air of great sublimity, while the eastern gable, richly mantled in ivy, and in tolerable preservation, conveys to the mind of the visitor some notion of what this temple was in its days of undiminished grandeur. This church, which, it is said, was once the cathedral of Meath, consisted of a nave, without either aisles or transept, 136 feet in length by 30 feet in breadth. On the south side of the altar are two sedilia with rounded arches. At a short distance east of this ruin are the remains of an ecclesiastical structure of smaller dimensions, on the western front of which appears the figure of what would seem to be the representation of a saintly personage. According to an ancient tradition, this figure is said to have been intended as a memorial of a daughter of King John, who, it is alleged, died during the visit of that monarch to this country. There is little or no foundation to support the credibility of this assertion, as we know that John's visit to Trim was very brief, being, according to the best accounts, limited to a couple of days. Besides, it is not likely that at such a time, when even the Anglo-Norman barons were showing symptoms of a relaxed fealty, as in the case of the De Lacys, that the king would have brought the female members of his family to Ireland. The Priory of St. John the Baptist is situated east of St. Peter's, at Newtown Bridge, and, like the abbey, is on the south side of the river. This priory or hospital was erected in the thirteenth century, under the patronage of St. John the Baptist, for Crouched Friars, by, as it is supposed, the Bishop of Meath. The ruins are of considerable extent, but by no means remarkable for the beauty of their style; indeed, their appearance does not exhibit traits of a strictly ecclesiastical character. This establishment and its possessions were granted to Robert Dillon on the suppression of religious houses. It afterwards became the property of the Ashe family, and was inhabited by them for many years, during which time, in all probability, it underwent such alterations as may have had a tendency to interfere with

its original style and appearance. The following observation in reference to this priory appears appended to Dean Butler's account of it:—"Tradition says that previous to the Revolution it was inhabited by Dr. Browne, a Roman Catholic bishop, who was driven from it after the battle of the Boyne, when it was granted to one of William's officers. The intruder was not allowed to enjoy his acquisition; for on the very night he took possession, he saw the most horrid vision, and felt as if the whole weight of the priory was upon his breast. At dawn of day he ordered his horse, and rode away—never to return." These ruins, as they appear at present, consist of a regular line of building, which extends along the water's edge, from a square castle that adjoins St. Peter's Bridge to another castle at the eastern extremity, near the east or chancel window of an ancient chapel, which was about 112 feet in length by 24 in breadth. On the north side of the river, at a short distance below the bridge, is an old castle supposed to have been erected in the middle of the fifteenth century. It is of the ordinary square character, with an attached circular tower; there are stairs at two of its angles, and, like similar buildings of its class, it has but few windows. Of the Dominican abbey founded in honour of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in 1263, by Geoffrey de Geneville, Lord of Meath, there are now no remains. This convent, which was situated near the gate leading to Athboy, was, together with its church and all its possessions, granted to Sir Thomas Cusacke, on the 24th of May, 1540. The site of this abbey and the abbey well are defined on the Ordnance survey. The convent of the Observantine or Grey Friars of Trim is said to have been founded by King John, though others say it owed its foundation to the family of Plunkett. It appears by letters patent, dated the 10th of July, in the thirty-fourth year of the reign of Henry VIII., that the monastery of St. Francis, called the Observantine or Grey Friars of Trim, and all its messuages and gardens, were granted for ever to Sir Anthony St. Ledger. These possessions were afterwards conveyed to Sir Thomas Ashe, of Trim, who made them over, with the exception of the house called the "Shore-house," and the "Town-house, in Trim," to Francis Aungier, Baron of Longford. The town is pleasantly situated on the river Boyne, over which is a bridge of long standing and comparatively plain character. It is still a place of importance, although its general business is far from being in keeping with its ancient renown. The only manufacture carried on in the town and neighbourhood at present is that of flour, for which there are extensive mills, about two miles up the Boyne, at a place called Haggard. These mills belong to Mr. Odlum, and are spiritedly worked, there being thirteen pair of stones employed in the concerns. In the town, just below the bridge, another mill is worked by Mr. Kennedy. The Catholic church is situated at the eastern end of Market Street, and is a handsome edifice of cruciform character, which presents a fresh and neat appearance. The residence of the parish priest and his two

curates immediately adjoins the church, and is a very nice house. A plot of ground, which is in the vicinity of the precincts of the church, had then been recently purchased by the reverend pastor for the erection of a nunnery. East of this church is the county jail, erected about twenty-five years ago, at an expense of £26,000. In this part of the town, and at the extremity of Dublin Gate Street, has been erected a handsome column of the Corinthian order to the honour of the illustrious Duke of Wellington, who for some time was the representative of the borough in parliament, and whose family had long been connected by property and residence with the town and neighbourhood. This appropriate monument stands on an elevated pedestal, on the front of which there is an inscription which states the period of its erection, 1817, by contributions from the people of the county of Meath. On a fine circular pedestal which rises from the summit of the capital is a splendidly-executed and life-like statue of the heroic duke, with his arm outstretched and his hand upraised, while his face is turned towards the centre of the town, with which, personally and politically, he was connected. Trim, indeed, may feel justly proud of such a monument, while the people of Meath in general have cause to rejoice in having marked their high appreciation of the great character and eminent services of their distinguished countryman. In raising this handsome testimonial of his greatness and worth, they have anticipated by many years similar manifestations in other localities. And now, when large premiums are being offered for models suitable for a monument to perpetuate his undying fame in the glorious St. Paul's, London, they can congratulate themselves with the assurance that, although theirs is not the greatest of the testimonials raised to his honour, it is at least one of the first. East of the Wellington Pillar is the military barrack, which is capable of accommodating one company of infantry. At this time, owing to the want of adequate accommodation, arising from the augmentation of the army—including the militia levies—consequent upon the Crimean campaign, wooden huts, similar to those in use upon the Curragh, were raised in the vicinity of the barrack. A school, under the direction of the rector of the parish, is situated in this neighbourhood, and is a plain old-fashioned house. There are also schools under the National Board of Education in the town. The union workhouse is likewise situated in the eastern part of the town, and was at this time, and for a considerable period previously, showing a decrease in the number of its inmates. The Court House is situated at the upper end of Market Street, to which it displays its handsome front. It is two stories in height, and shows a slightly projecting centre, in which is the door, with a window on each side, and three in the upper story, above which rises a pediment, in the tympanum of which is a fine clock. A very neat market-house has been recently built in the south-western part of the town, near the boundary wall of the great castle. It is a handsome structure, and, with its light surrounding

railing, presents a very nice appearance. In this part of the town a small Wesleyan Methodist chapel was at this time being built. The principal hotel is likewise situated in this quarter, and is a very good house. The charter of incorporation granted to the inhabitants by Walter de Lacy was confirmed and extended by Edward III. and Richard II. Henry IV. and Henry VI. further confirmed it; and Elizabeth, in the thirteenth year of her reign, recited and confirmed all the previous grants, and conferred the charter under which the town continued to be governed. Trim returned two members to the Irish parliament up to the passing of the Act of Union, when the compensation awarded for the disfranchisement of the borough was paid to the head of the Wesley family, in whom the patronage was vested. The income arising from the property of the corporation, which was abolished in 1841, pursuant to the Irish Municipal Corporations Act, is at present about £250 a year, with prospects of an increase, as leases may fall out.

Bective, situated about four miles from Trim, is a very handsome place, and well worthy of a visit. It is a parish in the barony of Upper Navan, and derives its importance from a monastery founded here, about the year 1150, by O'Melachlin, King of Meath, by whom it was richly endowed, and dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. This abbey—the ruins of which are still in tolerable preservation, occupy a favourable site on the western bank of the Boyne, and, from their conspicuous position, arrest the traveller's attention—was appropriated to monks of the Cistercian order. The ruins consist of a square pile of buildings, the front of which is flanked on each extremity by a characteristic tower. Portions of the cloisters, and of the walls and chimneys of the spacious hall, still remain, the former presenting a magnificent range of pointed arches, which spring from curiously-sculptured columns. We find the following very remarkable circumstance in reference to this ancient abbey related by most of the writers who treat of the ecclesiastical affairs of this country. They state that, in the year 1195, the Bishop of Meath and his archdeacon, with the prior of the abbey of Duleek, were appointed by Pope Innocent III. to decide a controversy between the monks of this abbey and the canons of St. Thomas, Dublin, respecting their right to the body of Hugh de Lacy, which was decided in favour of the latter. As previously mentioned, the body of this nobleman had been interred with great pomp in the abbey of Bective, while the head was buried with the remains of his first wife in that of St. Thomas, Dublin. This renowned abbey and its possessions were, in the thirty-fourth year of the reign of Henry VIII., granted to Alexander Fitton. We find, however, that they were granted, in 1639, by Charles I., to Richard Bolton, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, and are still the property of his descendants, who reside at Bective House, which is nicely situated on the bank of the river Boyne. In the vicinity of Bective are also some picturesque remains of an ancient chapel.

The tourist, in travelling from Trim to Dublin, will obtain a view of Dangan Castle, the birthplace of the illustrious Duke of Wellington, which is situated in a tame country about four miles from that town. There is nothing remarkably striking in its appearance, and but for its association with his great name, it would attract but little notice. It has long been out of the possession of any member of his family, and is occupied at present by a gentleman who, it appears, devotes a good deal of his praiseworthy attention to the grazing and cultivation of its rich and fertile lands. Advancing by this route, the tourist will also obtain a view of the renowned Hill of Tara, once the site of the palace of the kings of Ireland. But of this famed palace, where oft assembled, in full and solemn council, the crowned monarch, the mitred bishop, the gallant warrior, and the learned bard, or of the princely halls once the resort of the beautiful and the brave, there are now no remains. Indeed, like another Nineveh, there is little remaining but the hill itself to tell aught of its ancient glories. It must be very saddening to the mind of an Irishman conversant with the historical reminiscences of this remarkable place, to perceive that there remains no evidence whatever of its former splendour. By such a person the truthfulness of the picture drawn of its present desolation, in the solemn and sublime dirge of the idolised and gifted poet Moore, in his beautiful and appropriate lines, commencing with, "The harp that once through Tara's Halls," becomes at once forcibly and painfully realised. The tourist, in his anxiety to see and judge for himself of the appearance of this seat of the Irish kings, will find little to repay him for his trouble, save the extensive prospect which may be had from its once regal summit, of the surrounding country, which in the harvest season teems with richness, and at other times of the year is alive with flocks of sheep and herds of the finest cattle.

CHAPTER IX.

TOWNS IN THE COUNTIES OF LOUTH, LONGFORD, AND WESTMEATH.

Proceeding from the county of Meath to that of Louth, the tourist will find an agreeable resting-place at the border town of Drogheda, where there are many objects worthy of his attention. This ancient town, which is a county in itself, is finely situated for commerce on the banks of the Boyne, by which it is intersected, and which, flowing from west to east, discharges itself into the sea at the distance of about four miles from the town. Thus favourably placed on both sides of the river, which divides the counties of Louth and Meath, it has long been considered a very important place, and at present comprises an area of about nine square miles, or 5,780 acres, of which about 5,300 are in the rural district, and the remainder within the town; the population being about 17,000. Near the centre of the town the Boyne is crossed by a substantial bridge of three arches, and of long standing. The larger and more important part of the town is on the north or Louth side of the river, and the smaller portion on the south or Meath side. The quays, which extend on each side of the river east of the bridge, are fronted with granite; that on the north being more than a quarter of a mile in length, with an ample carriage-way skirting the river, and a commodious walk for pedestrians, which for part of the distance is divided from it. The Custom House, a plain structure, is situated on this side, and a patent slip and ship-building yard at the lower end of the quay on the south side; while along the quays on both sides are large stores and warehouses, with several flour mills and extensive flax mills, which afford employment to very many persons. An iron ship-building yard has lately been established here by Mrs. Grendon and Co., where within the last year three or four steamers have been built. There are also cotton factories in the town, where numbers of hands are engaged. The Linen Hall, a quadrangular building, is situated west of the bridge; but the linen trade having long since declined in the town, the hall became neglected, and, at this time, presented, to some extent, a dreary and dilapidated appearance. It is gratifying to know that at present (the autumn of 1862), a considerable improvement in the linen trade has taken place. There were when I paid my visit a distillery and two breweries at full work in the town. Drogheda has long been celebrated for the

superiority of its ale, large quantities of which are exported to England and other distant places. The great modern features in this town are the new viaduct and bridge, which at this period were being built by the directors of the railway, for the use and convenience of their line. These very important structures lead to and cross the Boyne, about one-third of a mile below the old and strong bridge already mentioned. The light and finely rounded arches of the viaduct, fifteen in number, twelve on the south side and three on the north side of the river, which spring from elegant piers, present a beautiful appearance. The bridge consists of three separate spans, the central one which crosses the deep and navigable part of the river, being 130 feet wide, and 95 feet in height, from the bed of the river to the floor or roadway above. The largest vessels that enter the port, being about 400 tons burthen, will be enabled to pass under the bridge by striking their top-gallant masts. The estimated cost of this great work was £100,000. At the entrance to the harbour there are three lights, one to the north, one to the east, and one to the west, two of which are moveable, according to the changes of the bar. The port has been considerably improved of late by the Harbour Commissioners, and a steam dredge constantly employed, which is of 16-horse power, and capable of raising 400 tons of mud each day. The commerce of the port was very prosperous at this time, six steamers being constantly plying between it and Liverpool, and consequently the income of the commissioners arising from the harbour dues has increased in a like proportion; indeed, I heard while here that the revenue of the port had become doubled within the previous ten years. The streets of Drogheda, for a town of its antiquity, are commodious, and may be called regular, and the houses good, many of them being of large and handsome appearance, and the shops nicely fitted up. The Court House of the county of the town of Drogheda is situated in West Street, at a point which may be called the centre of the town, from which Peter Street branches to the north, Shop Street to the south, and Laurence Street to the east. It is a fine Doric building, displaying two handsome fronts, one to West Street and Peter Street, and the other to Shop Street. A massive entablature extends above the door and windows of the basement story, over which, in the principal front, are three windows, with an ornamental pediment over each of them. The whole building is surrounded by a rich parapet, above which in the principal front rises a bold pediment, and in the rear of it a strong tower, of three stages, in the second of which is the town clock, that shows a dial on each of its four sides. The third and final story consists of an octagon turret, with an Ionic pillar on each of its angles, and a circular louvre window in each of its sides, surmounted by a cupola, supporting a ball and weather-cock. The mayor holds his court in this building, and in it the town-clerk and treasurer have offices. The corporate estate comprises about 2,000 acres, producing an income of nearly £4,000 a year; of which £1,000

are paid for salaries and pensions to retired officers; £700 for watching, cleansing, paving, and lighting; £600 for watering and public works; and the residue for purposes of general improvement.

There are branches of the Bank of Ireland, the Provincial Bank, and Hibernian Bank in the town; and also a savings-bank. The military fort, which occupies the summit of a verdant conical hill, called Mill Mount, on the Meath side of the river, is a strong battery, on which, at this time, were mounted traversing guns, being eighteen-pounders, which fully command the town and harbour. From this elevation the whole town and vicinity can be seen to the greatest advantage, with the Boyne flowing gently downwards, and passing beneath the old bridge and the newly-constructed railway bridge, as it winds in its course to the sea.

Donore churchyard, the eminence upon which King James II. stood during the celebrated battle of the Boyne, can be seen encircled by trees, at about two miles distance from the town. The barracks, capable of accommodating two companies of infantry, are situated west of the battery. A portion of the ancient town wall may be seen stretching westwards from the barracks for a few perches, and thence in a northerly direction, until it meets a strong ancient tower, the loop-holes and other defensive characteristics of which are still to be seen in comparative preservation. The Protestant church of St. Peter, a fine substantial building in the Roman Doric style of architecture, is situated in the popular burial-place of the town, with a massive tower of four distinct stages, enriched with pinnacles, and supporting a spire, which appears low when contrasted with the height and weight of the tower upon which it is based. The interior is very beautiful, and is lighted by six semi-windows below, and six fine Gothic windows above. The communion table stands within a square recess, which is lighted by a splendid stained-glass window. On each side wall of the recess is a handsome monument, one of them being to the late archbishop, Dr. Magee. The principal entrance is in the centre of the tower, and in a recess within the vestibule stands a highly enriched ancient font, which is elaborately wrought, somewhat in the style of the base of the great cross of Tuam. The side aisles are entered by handsome doors, one on each side of the central tower. The glebe-house adjoins the churchyard. The church of St. Mark, a handsome modern edifice, was erected as a chapel of ease to St. Peter's church.

The Protestant church of St. Mary is situated within an ancient churchyard on the southern or Meath side of the river, and at some distance south-east of Mill Mount Fort. It is a small modern edifice with a pinnacled and embattled tower, which supports a neat spire. A portion of the ancient town wall may be seen at this place, forming the southern boundary wall of the churchyard. The Catholic church of St. Peter, a very fine structure, shows its handsome front of cut

stone to West Street. The highly enriched gate of entrance, extending the full length of the area which intervenes between it and the front of the church, runs on a line with the houses on this side of the street. In the slightly projecting centre of the gabled front is the principal door, which leads into the vestibule. A similar door, but of smaller size, leads into each aisle, and affords an approach to the galleries, which extend along the aisles and the rear of the nave. Above each of the doors is a very beautiful Gothic window, that in the centre being proportionably larger than those of the aisles. The summit of the front is enriched by an embattled parapet, and the apex of the projecting centre crowned by a graduating pedestal, supporting a massive plain cross. The style of this church, like that of the Protestant church of St. Peter, partakes of the Roman Doric; the lower story on each side, in which there is also a door, being lighted by four semi-windows, with Roman arches; while the upper story is lighted by five handsome Gothic windows on each side, and the altar end of each aisle by one of the same character. The semi-circular recess within which the principal altar stands is lighted by similar windows, one on each side of the representation of the crucifixion; these latter windows, as well as those in the altar end of each aisle, and the window next the altar in each side of the church, are ornamented with stained glass. The interior is very beautiful, the aisles being divided from the nave by six clustered columns, with Corinthian capitals, between which spring the light and elegant Gothic arches, five on each side. The ceiling of the nave is divided into panelled compartments, with an elegant frieze running beneath it; and those of the aisles enriched by handsome groinings, which have a very fine effect. The Blessed Virgin's altar stands on the right of the principal altar, with which it may be said to form a right angle, it being placed in the aisle. The nice organ is situated in the rear of the nave gallery. This church cost upwards of £12,000.

The Catholic church of St. Mary, situated on the Meath side, is a handsome structure somewhat in the style of that of St. Peter, but not so large. There are no aisles nor side galleries in this church, but there is a deep gallery in the western end. The altar is nicely decorated, and has a very fine appearance. The neat residence of the parish priest and his curate adjoins the church. A benevolent gentleman, Michael Duff, Esq., contributed the munificent donation of £5,000 towards the erection of this fine church. The Franciscan convent and chapel are situated in Laurence Street. The chapel is a new and very nice house of worship, with a handsome square tower. The chapel and convent of the Brothers of the Augustinian order are situated in Low Lane. This chapel being an old structure, with a very deep gallery, has a heavy and dark appearance. The convent and chapel of the Dominican Fathers are situated in Linen Hall Street. The convent is a plain modern house, and the chapel such as

to afford little scope for lengthened comment. There were at this time two nunneries in Drogheda: one of them, a Presentation convent, is situated in Fair Street; and the other, dedicated to St. Dominick, beautifully situated in the environs, has an elegant chapel. Numbers of poor children are educated and instructed in useful works, by the pious and devoted ladies of these convents. I heard while here that his Grace the Archbishop was about to introduce a community of the Sisters of Mercy. In Fair Street is situated a handsome Presbyterian place of worship, which displays its gabled front to the street, with a very nice central window and two lancet-shaped windows, one on each side of the central one. It is entered by a square porch. There is another dissenting place of worship in Palace Street, and a plain Methodist chapel in Laurence Street, nearly opposite the Franciscan church and convent. The residence of the curates of his Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Dixon, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh, is situated in Fair Street, and is a fine large house, formerly used as a military barrack, which was purchased by trustees for his Grace, some years since, from the Board of Ordnance. A very extensive school has been established here by the good Primate, which is under the care of his administrator, the Rev. Father Hanratly, where more than a hundred youths receive a gratuitous and classical education. This, indeed, is a step in the right direction. If our barracks in general could be converted into educational establishments, and our poor-houses into factories, Ireland would soon become—in the opinion of others as well as Messrs. Cobden, Bright, and Co.—really happy and prosperous. But we can scarcely flatter ourselves with such enviable results, while the arbitrary will of a single potentate, like the late pugnacious Emperor of All the Russias, can succeed in setting the world in a blaze. This building was erected on a plot of ground leased by the corporation, for a long term of years, to the late Meade Ogle, Esq., who for many years represented the borough in parliament, at a rent of £3 a year, although it comprises over two acres. In some years after he built the house, he sold it to the government for £5,000; but being, as I suppose, considered by the Board of Ordnance unsuitable for a barrack, it was recently sold by the Board, as before mentioned, for the sum of £500. The corn-market, a quadrangular area, surrounded by a substantial wall, is also situated in Fair Street, and displays its front of 65 yards in length to this street. A handsome small building occupies the centre of the front, from which rises a square turret surmounted by a cupola, from which springs a weather-guage, while another small square structure, connected with the centre by a handsome range wall, rises on each extremity of the front, the whole presenting a pleasing uniformity. The market is entered by a door in the central building, and by large gateways, one in each of the flanking range walls. Sheds supported on light pillars run round three sides of the interior, which afford the requisite shelter and accommodation to venders of the several market-

able articles brought here for sale, while weights, scales, and all the necessary apparatus for the convenience of the public are provided. The potato-market is held in a large open space north of the boundary wall of the corn-market. Fountains are placed in convenient parts of the town, and the public apparently well supplied with water—so essential to the health and comfort of the inhabitants. The union workhouse stands on an elevation in the vicinity of the town. There are an infirmary and dispensary in the town, with several schools, and a prison for the county of the town; and also two excellent hotels, the Imperial and the White Horse. Of the remains of antiquity still to be seen here, St. Laurence's Gate is the most striking, and in the best preservation. It stands on the line of the ancient town-

ST. LAURENCE'S GATE.

wall, a portion of which, in immediate connection with the gate, is still standing, and is of dense and massive character. The capacious arch, which extends the entire breadth of the street, and which supports a lofty square tower, three stories in height, forms the eastern approach to the town. Circular flanking towers, of great strength and equal height, stand on each side of and rise somewhat above that which is based upon the massive arch, with defensive loop-holes in several parts of their respective stages. In the central tower, also, are windows and port-holes, which afford conclusive evidence of the former strength and importance of this fortalice. A tall and stately ruin, the interesting remnant of an important fane, a very conspicuous

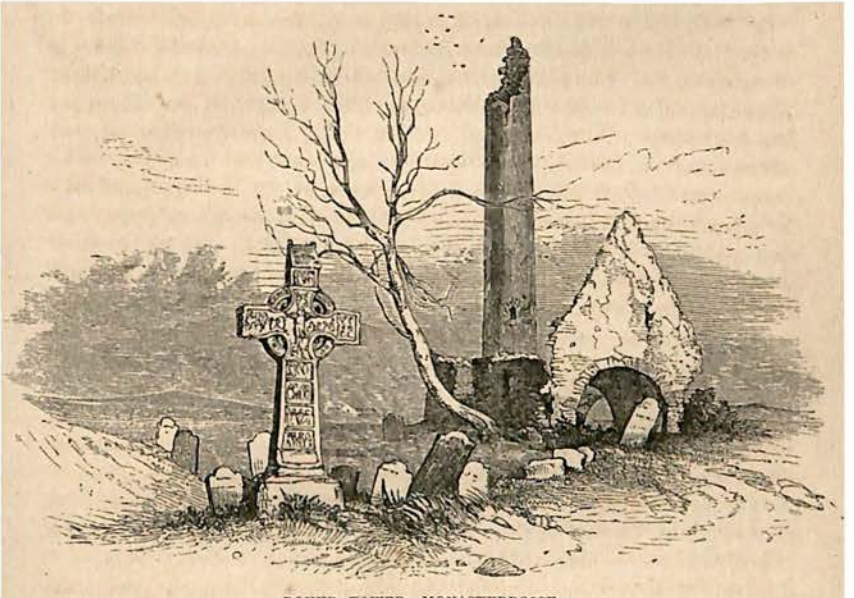
object, is situated in the highest part of the town, at a short distance north of the church and churchyard of St. Peter's. This ruin, consisting of a slender tower of three stories, which stands upon a lofty pointed Gothic arch over 50 feet in height, is the sole remaining portion of the venerable Abbey of St. Mary Magdalene. Near the summit of the pinnacled tower a hole is pointed out which, it is said, was caused by a cannon-shot discharged by one of Cromwell's artillerymen. In the north-western section of the town, near the Linen-hall, are the remains of an ancient abbey, the western tower and eastern gable of which, now in ruins, are still to be seen. Since the first establishment of the English domination in this country, Drogheda has been considered a place of great importance; for we find that it was included in the original grant of Meath to one of the principal friends and supporters of Henry II., Hugh de Lacy; but in 1220, when a new grant was made to his son Walter, by Henry III., the town and castle of Drogheda had become of such importance that the king retained them in his own possession, allowing De Lacy an equivalent in money, and the tollage of the town, as a further compensation for their loss. In 1229, Henry III. gave by charter to the town, on the south side of the Boyne, privileges and customs similar to those of Dublin; and in the year 1247 the same monarch granted similar privileges and immunities to the town on the Meath side, with power to hold a weekly market, and an annual fair for six days. A new charter was granted in 1253, whereby the burgesses of Drogheda in Louth were empowered to elect a mayor, and to hold an annual fair for fifteen days. Edward I. and Richard II. conferred additional privileges and immunities upon the town; so that, even at this early period, it was placed on an equality with the four principal cities, Dublin, Cork, Limerick, and Waterford. We find that a monastery was early erected here for brethren of the Augustinian order; and on the 16th of March, 1394, in the hall of the Dominican priory, Richard II. received the submission of O'Nial, O'Hanlon, O'Donnel, MacMahon, and other native chieftains of Ulster. Henry IV., towards the latter end of his reign, united the two boroughs into one body politic. Soon after this time a parliament was held here. Another was convened here in the thirty-first of Henry VI. A parliament which assembled in Dublin was adjourned to this town, by which the Geraldines were attainted, and the Earl of Desmond, appearing to justify himself, was instantly brought to the scaffold. Drogheda bravely resisted Cromwell's assault upon the town, and held out against him for the space of two days; but on the third, his force of 10,000 men, headed by himself, succeeded in obtaining possession of it; and, in order to impress upon the Irish a terror of his name, this ruthless soldier gave the garrison up to the sword. This barbarous execution was continued for five successive days, the governor and all his officers being included in the terrible proscription. Even several ecclesiastics, who were found within the town, were inhumanly

put to death. In the war of the Revolution Drogheda took an important part, it having been garrisoned by James II., who had a magazine and military stores here; and in its immediate vicinity was fought the decisive and celebrated battle of the Boyne. The particulars of this battle, and the results which emanated from it, are too well known to require a detail of them here. The inhabitants, however, suffered severely from their loyalty and devotion to the House of Stuart.

The religious institutions of this town were originally very numerous. Of these, the most ancient was the Augustinian priory, on the north side of the river, having, it is supposed, been built by St. Patrick, and which for a long time bore his name. The hospital of St. Mary's, it appears, was founded in the thirteenth century for sick and infirm persons, and was afterwards occupied by Friars of the order of St. Augustine. The Priory of St. Laurence, near the gate of that name, is said to have been founded by the mayor and burgesses. The Dominican abbey, founded in 1224 by Lucas de Netterville, Archbishop of Armagh, became a house of great celebrity, and was at one time proposed as the seat of an intended university. On the dissolution of the monasteries, it was granted to Walter Dowdall and Edward Becke. The Grey Friary was founded in the thirteenth century, either, as we are told, by the family of D'Arcy or that of Plunket; and was, in 1518, taken possession of by the Observantine Friars. At the Dissolution it was granted to Gerald Aylmer. The Priory or Hospital of St. John, supposed to have been founded by Walter de Lacy, was, after the dissolution of the monasteries, granted to James Sedgrave, by Edward VI. We are informed that the Carmelite Friary founded by the inhabitants was, together with the convents of St. Laurence, St. Mary, and the Augustinian priory, given at the Dissolution to the corporation.

While at Drogheda, the tourist should avail himself of so favourable an opportunity to visit the celebrated ruins of Monasterboice and Mellifont Abbey. Riding out in this direction, and proceeding by the great northern line of road, he, by a gradual ascent at the distance of about three miles from the town, attains a considerable elevation, from which can be obtained excellent views of the town and its environs, in which are included the light-houses and the bay. Diverging to the left from this point, he will soon arrive at the ancient churchyard of Monasterboice, which is situated in an open country, and unsheltered by plantations of any kind. Here are to be seen the ruins of two chapels situated at a short distance from each other, the walls and gables still standing, and denoting, by the style of their architecture, a remote antiquity. The windows are of freestone, but the buildings in general are composed of a slaty kind of stone obtained in the neighbouring hills. Here, also, is to be seen one of the round towers, so interesting in the eyes of the antiquary. It is about 110 feet in height from the base to the highest part of the summit, which

forms a sort of rude pinnacle, the connecting portions of the wall, for some feet, having fallen from a stroke of lightning or some such cause. It is about 50 feet in circumference at the base, decreasing gradually upwards, and is composed of the same kind of stone as that used in the construction of the chapels. From the inferiority of the materials used in building it, or from the defective nature of the workmanship, or, perhaps, from its great antiquity, it has a much more dilapidated appearance than any of the buildings of the same description which I have seen. It can be entered by a doorway about



ROUND TOWER, MONASTERBOICE.

five feet from the ground. Its internal diameter is about nine feet. This renowned monastery was founded by St. Bute, the son of Bronagh, who died in 521. It was plundered in 968, and in 1097 was destroyed by fire. There are three magnificent and highly-wrought ancient crosses in this churchyard, one of them, standing about 18 feet in height, which appears to be formed of one stone, is called St. Boyne's Cross. The arms are enclosed within a circle, and the shaft and other parts are ornamented with figures sculptured in relief, which, though much defaced, appear to have represented Scriptural subjects. It is situated at a short distance from the round tower, and south of the western gable of the south chapel. The second in size is 16 feet in height, and, like the former, is based on a massive stone pedestal. It stands also south of the chapels and near the eastern gable of the most southern of them. The third, of equal richness and beauty, although having suffered from an accident whereby its shaft, of cor-

responding length, was broken, is now but six feet above the pedestal, in which the part of the shaft that remained attached to the head of the cross is embedded. This cross is situated near the boundary wall in the eastern extremity of the churchyard. The elaborate and highly-wrought devices on the shafts and other parts of these curious remnants of a distant age, are calculated to excite one's wonder. The great variety and ingenuity displayed in these rare and fanciful antique monuments induced the committee of the Dublin Exhibition to have casts made of the two principal of them, which were to be seen in contiguity to the great cross of Tuam, and others of the same description, near the principal entrance of the industrial temple. On the second of these objects of curiosity are seen sculptured devices illustrative of man's creation, as evinced by figures of our first parents, Adam and Eve; and of the fall, as shown by the Serpent tempting our poor mother Eve to taste of the forbidden fruit; of the consequence of their disobedience, in the murder of Abel by his brother Cain; and several other very interesting particulars in reference to the same subject. Incidents connected with the flood are also depicted, such as Noah collecting the several animals into the ark. The history of man's redemption is likewise illustrated in these carvings, as demonstrated by the principal events in the life, and more especially the passion, sufferings, and death of our Saviour—as, for instance, his betrayal by Judas, his trial before Pilate, his scourging at the pillar, and, finally, his crucifixion. When we consider the long standing of these artistic performances, we must make allowance for the comparative rudeness of the chiselling, as contrasted with similar works of the present day. The piety, however, evinced in their conception, and the patient ingenuity manifested in their elaborate execution, alike excite our reverence, surprise, and admiration.

Leaving the churchyard, I passed onwards by the village of Monasterboice, which is about three miles from Slane Castle, the magnificent seat of the Marquis of Conyngham, a most delightful place. Oriel Hall, the splendid seat of Lord Massereene, is also situated in this neighbourhood. Arriving at Mellifont, the tourist will notice the ruin of a strong defensive tower, still in a state of comparatively good preservation, in the lower portion of which is a capacious arch, which constituted the entrance to the abbey in former days. This led into a beautiful valley, intersected by the Mattock, a rivulet which flows into the Boyne, after affording the requisite assistance in working a mill, which has been erected near the celebrated ruins. Besides this tower, which rises to a considerable height, and which formed a strong protective fortress against the frequent assaults to which this venerable place was exposed, the ruins consist, at present, of St. Bernard's Chapel, the baptistry, and the remains of a church. St. Bernard's Chapel, an elegant remnant of architectural beauty, with its splendid doorway, a highly enriched and deeply receding pointed arch, in the most elaborate style of

Norman embellishment, has suffered much from the rude hand of time, and is now partially removed. The interior of the chapel displays magnificent groinings, with arches springing from columns on the side walls, enriched with ornamental capitals, and lighted by an east window, decorated with delicate tracery, and with three windows of similar design on each side. The baptistry, an octangular building of great beauty, has only four of its sides now remaining, each resting on a Norman arch, of graceful form, richly moulded. The roof is entirely gone, but within are the projecting corbels, from which the supporting arches sprang. On the roof of this building, which was 24 feet in diameter, was a reservoir, from which every part of the monastery was supplied with water. The foundations of a quadrangular building of spacious character can be traced here, within which are vaults and subterranean chambers nearly choked up with rubbish. Near the summit of the hill, which rises in the rear of the grand ruins, is the cemetery, in which are the remains of a church, of much plainer style of architecture, and apparently of more recent erection than the other portions of the abbey now remaining. Its western gable, with the belfry and side walls, is still entire, as are the walls of the sacristy, which stand immediately south of the eastern gable of the church. There are numerous fragments of richly sculptured pillars scattered over the ruins, which, though they afford a very imperfect idea of the original grandeur of this celebrated establishment, yet present in their various details some of the richest specimens of architectural embellishment to be seen in any part of this country. This renowned abbey was founded, in 1142, by Donough McCorvoill, Prince of Uriel, for Cistercian monks, sent over to this country by St. Bernard, from the Abbey of Clairvaux. We find that Christian O'Conarchy, the first abbot, was, in 1150, consecrated Bishop of Lismore. In the year 1157, a great Synod, at which the Archbishop of Armagh, then apostolic legate, and many princes and bishops were present, was held here for the consecration of the church. The ample endowments of the abbey were confirmed by charter of Henry II. and by King John, who augmented its possessions; and in 1347 and 1349, Edward III. greatly extended its revenues and privileges; he granted the power of life and death within its territories, and the liberty of acquiring a burgage holding in the town of Drogheda, for the residence of the abbots, during the sitting of parliament and other councils. After the dissolution of the monastery, its revenues were granted to Gerald Moore, who converted the abbey into a baronial residence and place of defence. It continued to be the chief residence of the Moore family till the Earl of Drogheda removed to Monastereven, now Moore Abbey, in the county of Kildare, after which time this once magnificent pile became a heap of ruins. These venerable ruins, so beautiful in their decay, are rendered particularly interesting from the recollection of what they were in the days of piety and usefulness, when they gave men of learning and

sanctity to many parts of the continent. Even now they afford to the antiquarian and the architect materials for their admiration, if not instruction; while feelings of regret take possession of all who behold the ravages that the ruthless hand of time has inflicted upon them.

Crossing a rocky eminence south-east of the ruins, the tourist will arrive at Townly Hall, the fine seat of Mr. Balfour, and will thence pass through King William's Glen, which is part of this property. It was through this valley that the successful monarch led his army to the banks of the Boyne, where, at a short distance east of Duke Schomberg's monument, he crossed the river. While in the vicinity of this place I meditated upon the historic events of that important period, on the issue of which so much depended; and thought too of the madness of party feeling, which would make historical occurrences like those the catchwords of strife and division. It is surely time that these more than foolish bickerings should have an end, as no one can be so besotted as to think they can last for ever; and in the full sincerity of my heart I offered up a prayer for the speedy oblivion of every exasperating feeling connected with them; and that, thereby, Irishmen might cease to be the laughing-stock of all the world, by their silly and insane divisions. It was during the period of the Crimean campaign that I made my visit to this part of Ireland, and the time appeared, to my mind, well suited for the inculcation of such sentiments, as at that moment two nations, rivals in renown, stood arrayed as brethren in arms, fighting in defence of liberty and the rights of humanity against a gigantic tyranny that would, if possible, enslave the whole of Europe. While we admire the proper feeling of delicacy which prevented a portion of our brave army from unfurling their standards in the presence of their gallant allies, lest by doing so they should inflict a wound on their sensitive feelings by displaying the victories emblazoned upon them, we should teach ourselves a lesson of moderation and forbearance, and endeavour to become as charitable to each other as we are disposed to be towards our Gallic neighbours. With such examples before us, it is full time that we should lose sight of invidious distinctions, and sacrifice all such on the altar of our common country. If we have but the good sense to act in this spirit,—and the blood of our brave countrymen, so profusely shed upon the heights of Alma and before Sebastopol, calls upon us to do so,—Irishmen will soon become, what they long since ought to have been, a powerful, and, therefore, a respected people.

Arriving at Dundalk, the Assize town of the county of Louth, the tourist will find much to afford him pleasure and gratification, the streets being wide and regular, and the houses well-built and uniform. It is situated in the barony of Upper Dundalk, on the side of the Castletown river, and near to its mouth, about fifty miles from Dublin. This rising and prosperous maritime town appears to a stranger much more populous than it is in reality, as the houses are not too closely packed together, but spread over a large surface. The

market, which is held on Monday, is largely attended, and, situated as the town is, in the heart of a rich country, the supply of agricultural produce is very abundant. Fairs are held on the third Wednesday of every month. The trade of the port has greatly increased within these last twenty years, which advantage may be attributed to the improvement of the harbour, on which, since the year 1837, the Harbour Commissioners have expended £20,000. These works were carried out under the direction of Sir John Macneill, and consist chiefly of the straightening and enlarging the bed of the river, and the general deepening of the bar and harbour by steam dredging. The rise of the tide at the bar is now sixteen feet, and at the bridge which crosses the Castletown river seven feet. A light-house, on the screw principle, has been erected at the bar or entrance to the harbour within the last ten years. Further improvements in the way of quay and dock accommodation were being carried out when I paid my visit in the year 1855. The harbour is formed by the innermost recess of the bay, which is seven miles across at its mouth, from Dunany Point to Coolby Point, and extends nearly a similar distance to the town. It is very safe, the bay affording good anchorage in from four to eight fathoms water. There are some nice bathing places along the shore, especially at the village of Blackrock, which is very well attended and a gay place during the season. Among the public buildings in the town, the Court House holds the foremost rank, and is a handsome modern edifice, constructed of cut granite, with a fine double portico, composed of massive fluted columns of the Doric order, which is said to be modelled from the Temple of Theseus at Athens. It is situated in the centre and principal part of the town, and shows its front to the extensive area called the Market Square. It contains, besides the two spacious and well-arranged courts, every requisite accommodation for the grand jury and public officers. The Guildhall, a neat brick edifice, situated also at the Market Square, contains an assembly room, a news-room, offices for the savings-bank, an office for the inspector of the constabulary, and also apartments for the transaction of municipal business, and for holding public meetings. On one side of the handsome square stands the market-house, of comparatively recent erection, the basement story of which is composed of seven arches of fine granite work, and the upper story of rich brick, with granite quoins and window edgings. The old market-house still stands at the western end of Clanbrazil Street; while the old jail, which at this time was being removed, was situated in the rear of the Court House.

In the southern suburbs are situated several interesting objects, including the new county jail, a splendid building, constructed on the most approved principles. The entrance is by a rich portico, formed by three handsome granite arches, surmounted by a characteristic balcony. The portico is flanked on each side by a square turret, of two stories in height, surrounded by a rich balustrade,

while in the rear of the centre of the front rises another handsome turret of three stories, with a low curving roof that projects over the side walls, and from the apex of which rises a light ornamental pinnacle. This is a remarkably fine building of the kind, and cannot fail to attract the attention of the visitor; nor is the interest it excites diminished by the appearance of a drop, or any other revolting symbol.

The Louth Hospital or County Infirmary is situated south of the jail; and is a fine brick edifice, showing an ornamental front, with granite quoins and edgings. Still south of this institution is the endowed Grammar School, where over a hundred boys receive a free education; this was once a female charter school. It is situated in a fine open area, which affords ample means of recreation to the pupils. The convent and chapel of the Friars of the Dominican order are situated north of the new prison; the chapel is a plain cruciform structure, with an attached tower of handsome exterior; it is nicely laid out, and capable of accommodating a much larger congregation than from its external appearance might be supposed. There is a national school in connection with this interesting establishment, which is numerously attended. A classical school in another part of the town is superintended by the pious fathers of this convent. The locality where this convent and the prison are situated, is designated Dominick Place. From the substantial railway bridge in this neighbourhood, under which the Enniskillen railway passes, can be obtained an enlarged view of these several buildings, with many handsome seats, villas, and cottages. From this point the lofty mountain called Slievegullion, which rises at a considerable distance north of the town, displays its cloud-capped giant head, and appears a sublime object; while the range of the Carlingford mountains, and, beyond them, the mountains of Mourne, can be seen to fine advantage, stretching in a north-easterly direction. In this neighbourhood also is situated an extensive brewery; there is another brewery, and also an extensive distillery, in Dundalk.

The Bank of Ireland, the Provincial and Belfast Banks, have branches in this town. There are no linen, flax, or cotton factories here at present, and therefore the Linen Hall has a neglected appearance. The military barracks, situated near the quay, are large and commodious, in which, at this time, were quartered 200 men and 150 horses of the 2nd Dragoons, or Queen's Bays. There are some good hotels in the town, amongst the principal of which are the Commercial, 15, Earl Street, kept by Mr. Sibthorpe, and the Commercial, kept by Mr. McArdle, Clanbrazil Street.

The opening of the railway to Dundalk has been productive of great advantage to the business of the place, particularly in facilitating the conveyance of stock to the fairs and steam-boats. The station, about a quarter of a mile from the town, is situated west of the new county prison; the union workhouse is in the same

locality, and showed a gratifying decrease in the number of its inmates. The Protestant church, formerly a Roman Catholic church, dedicated to Saint Nicholas, is situated in the northern section of the town. It is a cruciform structure, with a plain tower of long standing, one side of which is mantled with ivy. From the summit of this ancient tower, in which is a town clock, rises a wooden spire, sheeted with copper, to which time has given a greenish tinge. The interior of the church presents a spacious and elegant appearance; it has undergone repeated alterations, and has been considerably enlarged thereby.

The greatest feature in Dundalk is its magnificent Catholic church, which is, unquestionably, one of the most perfect and beautiful modern churches of its style in Ireland. It shows its western front to Jocelyn Street, one of the best and widest streets in the town. The uncommonly beautiful entrance is by splendid elliptic Gothic arches, with rich bronze gates, one on each extremity of the central range, which is composed of five other arches of the same character, in which are permanently embedded light and elegant railings. On each side of the entrance gates rises a light octangular column, ending in a minaret, surmounted by a rich cupola, from which springs a crocketed pinnacle. Above the centre of the arch of each gate stands a figure of St. Patrick, to whom the church is dedicated, in his episcopal robes, with mitre and crozier. This light and ornamental protective range is surmounted by a fine traceried open balustrade. A commodious area intervenes between the gates and the front of the church, which is entered in the central projection of its grand façade, by a deeply receding door, with finely panelled Gothic arch, and richly moulded jambs. Over this door appears the magnificent west window, of five lights, and elegant head tracery, and above it an ornamental niche; the whole surmounted by embattled ornaments, and the pointed gable enriched by a characteristic crowning cross. The central projection is flanked on each side by an attached octangular column, decorated with crocketed ornaments, and ending in an open turret with beautiful pinnacles, one on each angle of the octagon. On each side of the central projection is a door leading to its respective aisle, which, although not so large as the nave door, is in perfect correspondence with it; a characteristic window also appears above each of these doors. Pilasters springing from handsome buttresses rise on each wall of the aisles, between which are the very fine windows. The clerestory windows also appear between light and elegant pilasters, while the summit of the church is surrounded by a rich parapet. Octangular columns likewise rise on each side of the eastern projection, or apse, which constitutes the chancel, and are crowned by rich open turrets, with splendid pinnacles, similar to those which grace the summits of the columns that flank the central projection of the grand west front. The internal appearance of this beautiful temple is perfectly in keeping with its faultless exterior, and

can stand the test of the most rigid criticism; every part of it being conceived and executed in such a spirit of harmonious uniformity, as to ensure the fullest and most complete success. The aisles are divided from the nave by splendid clustered hexagon columns with highly enriched capitals, from which spring the light, lofty, and elegant Gothic arches, seven in number on each side. The groinings of the ceilings of the nave spring from the centre of the space between each of the arcade arches, from a point defined by a beautifully moulded cherub. An elegant frieze runs along the lower edge of the ceiling; the groinings of the aisles are equally beautiful and exquisitely wrought. There are no galleries in the church, with the exception of that in the rear of the nave, wherein stands the magnificent organ, which was built in Cork, and erected by Telford. The style and decoration of the altars, and the elegant stained-glass windows, six in number, are quite in accordance with all the other portions of this rich, elaborate, but still chaste and beautiful church. I was informed by Mr. Early, of the firm of Hardman and Company, by whom they were executed, that each of these magnificent windows cost £1,000; they were presented to the church by six inhabitants of the town. The entire cost of this fine oblong church was £32,000, the whole of which was subscribed by the spirited people of the town and neighbourhood, who within the last three years have given another proof of their zeal and liberality by the erection of a second church, the expense of which was £5,000.

In Castle Street, which branches from Jocelyn Street, and in the immediate vicinity of an ancient tower of slender proportions, which is in a state of tolerable preservation, is situated the convent of the Sisters of Mercy, with its nice attached chapel and adjoining school, where a large number of children are educated by the devoted and charitable sisters. At Jocelyn Street is situated a very neat Presbyterian house of worship, which shows its gable front to the public. Above the door, which is formed by a handsome Gothic arch, is the fine mullioned window, and on each extremity of the front a lancet-shaped window, while the apex and angles of the gable are decorated with pinnacles. Buttresses, from which spring pilasters, rise on each side of the building, between which are the windows, four on each side, which are also of Gothic character. There is likewise a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists in the town.

West of the town, and in its immediate vicinity, is Dundalk House, the seat of the Earl of Roden, an ancient mansion, situated in a richly planted demesne, comprising about 400 acres late plantation measure. The earliest historical notice which I have seen relating to this town occurs in 1180, when John de Courcy, with 1,000 men, marched against a prince of Argial, who had destroyed one of his ships, on which occasion he was encountered by several of the native chiefs, with a force of 7,000 men, by whom he was defeated, with the loss of

400 of his troops. The English power, being soon after firmly established, the town, with some other territories, was granted to Bertram de Verdon, who founded a priory of the Augustinian order here, which afterwards became a hospital. In the reign of Henry III. Lord John de Verdon founded a Franciscan priory in the town. In 1315, Edward Bruce took possession of Dundalk, and caused himself to be proclaimed King of Ireland; but being some time after attacked by John de Birmingham, his army was totally defeated and himself slain. In the year 1338, Theobald de Verdon obtained a grant of a market, and fair for fifteen days. Richard II. made this place a free borough; and Henry IV. granted certain customs, to surround the town with walls for its protection, as attempts were made by the O'Nialls, from time to time, upon it. On the breaking out of the war in 1641, we find that Roger O'Moore and Brian MacMahon, with a force of 2,500 men, posted themselves near the walls, and bade defiance to the government; but Sir Henry Tichborne, after an obstinate resistance on their part, succeeded in causing them to retreat from the town, of which he himself took possession. In the war of the Revolution, some forces of James II., which had been stationed in the town, abandoned it on the approach of William's army, commanded by Duke Schomberg.

James detached a party to seize the pass at Newry, which, on the first appearance of the opposing force, retired to Sligo. He soon after advanced at the head of the Irish army, and drew up in order of battle, but just at the moment when an engagement was expected, he drew off his forces, and retired to Ardee.

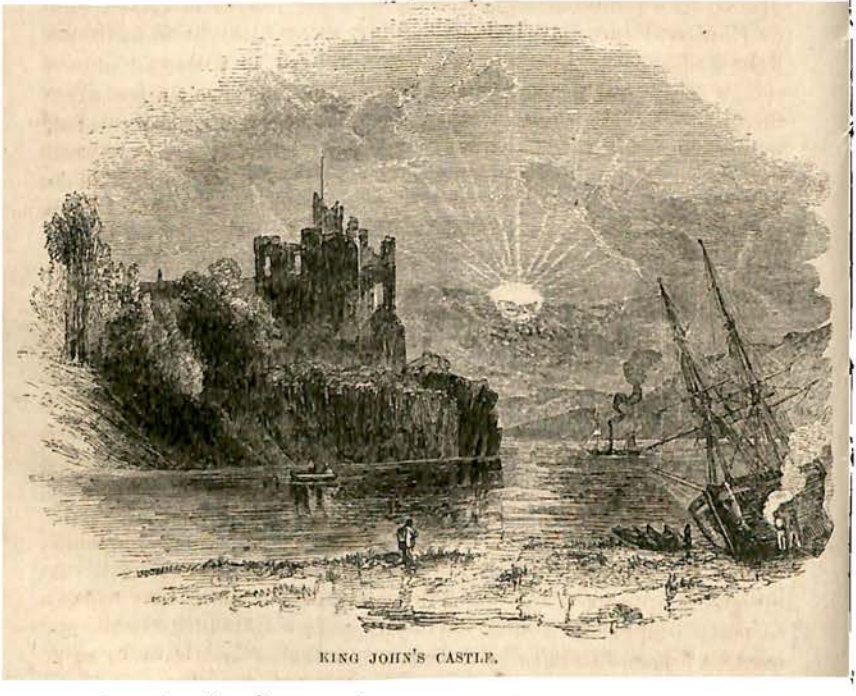
The remains of the Franciscan priory, founded by Lord John de Verdan, consist only of the tower, which stands adjacent to the convent of the Sisters of Mercy. After the dissolution of the monasteries, this abbey was granted, by Henry VIII., to James Brandon, at a nominal rent of sixpence, and a renewal fine of £9 10s.

Of the religious establishment founded by Bertram de Verdon there are now no remains; its lands were granted, by Elizabeth, to Henry Dracot, who, as we are told, had previously obtained a lease of them for the term of twenty-one years.

In the neighbourhood of the town is a fine spring, called the Lady Well, which is protected by an arched covering of masonry; in former years it was much resorted to on the 29th of September, the patron day of the parish. In this county, as well as in that of Meath, there are numerous remains of antiquity, among which may be mentioned those of the abbey, founded by St. Patrick, at the small town of Louth, over which he placed St. Mocteus as the first abbot. The very remarkable and celebrated structure of New Grange, in the neighbourhood of Drogheda, and the ancient mound, which is to be seen between the latter town and Dundalk, are worthy of the traveller's notice; as are the magnificent ruins of Castle Roche, formerly one of the frontier castles of the pale, which are situated about four miles

from Dundalk, on the left of the road leading to Armagh. I shall conclude my observations regarding this county, with a brief notice of the maritime town of Carlingford, which, although at present by no means a place of importance, is well worthy of a visit on account of the beauty of its situation at the foot of a lofty range of mountains, and on the margin of the spacious and picturesque bay. The tourist, as he approaches this ancient town from the capacious bay, having taken a boat at Warren Point,—a route I would strongly recommend him to adopt,—becomes very forcibly struck with the appearance of the magnificent ruin of the massive castle, which is based on a projecting promontory, that stands considerably above the harbour, to which it affords shelter from the north-west winds. Carlingford Mountain, which overhangs the castle, appears, as seen from this part of the bay, a truly sublime object, as it rises to an elevation of more than 1,900 feet above the level of the sea. From its great height and position it intercepts, during a considerable portion of the summer, the direct rays of the sun for several hours of the day.

The strong defensive pile just mentioned was called King John's Castle, it having been built by his directions,—some say by De Lacy,



KING JOHN'S CASTLE.

and others by De Courcy; it appears to have been an irregular building, somewhat in the form of a prolonged semicircle. The

walls in some parts are nearly 12 feet thick, and some of the defensive and loop-holed abutments are still standing. Several extensive halls and apartments were contained within the castle; the surrounding walls of the ample courtyard are still entire, and show in some parts of them traces of the adjoining galleries. The castle, from its position, the base being washed on the eastern side by the waters of the bay, must have had a great command of the entrance thereto; while of the narrow pass which intervenes between it and the overhanging mountain it had equal power, and no doubt was built to effect these objects. From the platform in front of the castle, which is approached by a flight of stone steps from the sea-shore, and on which formerly stood a strong battery, can be had a magnificent view of the bay, of its entrance, and many interesting objects, including the mountains of Mourne on the opposite side, and, in the foreground, some beautiful seats and cottages, among which may be mentioned Ballyedmund, the fine marine residence of Counsellor Stuart. The entrance to the bay is between Cranfield Point, in the county of Down, and Cooley Point, in the county of Louth, from which it extends to Warren Point, being eight miles in length, and about four miles in breadth at its widest part, which is from the quay of Rostrevor to Mr. Greer's handsome seat on the south side. There is a fixed light on Hawlbowling rock, which, at half-tide, shows at night an additional light half-way up the building, and in the day, at the same time of tide, a black ball is hoisted on the top of a pole, 10 or 12 feet above the lantern; while in foggy weather a bell is kept continually tolling by means of clockwork. On an inner point, that of Greenore, a small lighthouse, with a revolving light, has been erected. The harbour dues were wont to be collected in the name of the Marquis of Anglesey, as lord of the manor and admiral of Carlingford Bay.

The town of Carlingford, which is about sixty miles from Dublin, twelve from Dundalk, and ten from Newry, is finely situated on the south-west of the lough or bay to which it gives its name, and at the base of an extensive range of mountains which terminates at this point; with a small pier, for the protection and convenience of the fishing-boats of the port, in a curve which extends immediately south-west of the sheltering projection on which the ruins of the great castle stand. It was formerly a place of considerable importance, and had a very extensive trade; but it would seem that the altered state of the country, which no longer requires the existence of strong fortresses, has lessened its consequence, and that, in the same proportion in which Newry has risen to a good trading town, it has retrograded. At present it appears to be entirely destitute of the advantages which a seaport is supposed to confer, having no trade nor trading vessels; and even its fisheries seem to have declined; so that, while the antiquarian may sigh with regret as he beholds the ruins of its former grandeur, the philanthropist must deplore its modern prostration in a business point of view. There are no factories here, through the means of

which the people can find employment; therefore the population must entirely depend upon the precarious fishery and agricultural labour for support. The Carlingford oysters were long held in very high estimation; and herrings were usually, at certain seasons of the year, abundant in the bay; however, as before stated, a considerable gloom pervaded the old town at this time. Beside the ruin of the grand castle before mentioned, another castle, in tolerable preservation, stands near the beach, about the centre of the town, while an ancient square tower stands attached to the Protestant church, which, with the exception of this tower, appears a handsome modern building. The Catholic church is a neat building, near which there is a National school; there is also a Presbyterian house of worship in the town.

On the estate of the Marquis of Anglesey, a school for the education of Roman Catholic children has been for many years established, to which the Most Noble Marquis subscribed liberally. The remains of the Dominican monastery consist principally of the walls of the Abbey church, with a square tower of large proportions, supported on lofty pointed arches, dividing the nave from the chancel. At the west end of the nave are two turrets connected by a battlement, and on the south of the principal ruin a small detached one, which may have been a chapel. The great extent of these ruins proves their former grandeur and importance, while the mantling ivy, by which they are now generally covered, gives them an interesting and venerable appearance. In the centre of the town are seen the remains of a castellated building called the Parsonage, which in all probability formed the residence of the abbot. The elaborate and elegant carvings on the sides of the door and windows, are of exquisite chiseling, and admirable specimens of the sculptor's art; they consist of various devices, representing human heads, animals, and festooned foliage, and remind one of the splendid works of the same kind which are to be seen at Lynch's Castle and other buildings in Galway. On the summit of a neighbouring hill, called Ruskey, are the remains of a small chapel, with traces of a burial-ground, but there are no monuments, nor appearance of graves. It is supposed to have been a rural residence of the abbot. The market is held on Saturday, and fairs on the first Saturday of each month, and also on the 29th of September. Carlingford has been rendered remarkable as being the place where St. Patrick, in 432, effected his second landing. We are informed that the ferry of Carlingford was granted by John de Courcy to the abbey of Downpatrick, in the year 1184. The town, we are told, gradually arose in the neighbourhood of the great Castle, and consisted chiefly of castellated buildings, which, from its proximity to the frontier of the pale, were deemed essential.

In 1301, Matilda de Lacy, widow of Daniel, Baron of Naas, granted the advowson of the church to the priory of Kilmainham; and in 1305, Richard de Burgo, Earl of Ulster, founded a monastery for Dominicans here, which he dedicated to St. Malachy. Edward III.

granted to his son Lionel, Earl of Ulster, license to hold a market weekly on Thursday, and an annual fair for six days. We find that a mint was established here by Act of Parliament in 1467, and in 1495 it was enacted that none but Englishmen should be constables of the castle. In 1642, Sir Henry Tichborne took possession of the town, not, however, before it had suffered much injury by fire, from the adherents of Sir Phelim O'Neill. In 1649, Lord Inchiquin marched to this town and caused the castle to surrender, but the following year it was delivered up to Sir Charles Coote and Colonel Venables. In the revolutionary war, a party of James II.'s forces set fire to the town in their retreat before Duke Schomberg. Carlingford possessed corporate rights at an early period, as we find that in the year 1326 the king granted to the bailiffs of "Karlyngford" a charter for levying murage for six years, to enclose the town with a stone wall. Queen Elizabeth granted by charter extensive privileges and immunities in 1571. But the governing charter was that of James I., dated the 9th of August, 1619. The borough continued to send two members to parliament up to the period of the Union, when the sum of £15,000, paid as compensation for the loss of the franchise, was divided equally between the Marquis of Downshire and Mr. Ross Balfour Moore. The property of the corporation consisted of the commons of the town, which, according to the Down survey, comprised about 1,200 acres.

Having thus noticed the county of Louth, I shall now proceed to that of Longford, which is an inland county, bounded on the south and east by Westmeath, on the north by Cavan and Leitrim, and on the west by Roscommon, from which it is separated by the river Shannon and Lough Ree. This county in general is tame and flat, with the exception of the northern portion of it that borders on the county of Leitrim, which rises into dark and sterile mountains, whose drear aspect contrasts strongly with its otherwise uniform champaign character. Longford, the Assize town of the county, formerly a parliamentary borough, is situated in the parish of Templemichael, partly in the barony of Longford, but chiefly in that of Ardagh, twenty miles from Mullingar, and about sixty from Dublin. It is situated on the small river Camlin, and is a very good business town, its trade having been greatly increased by the extension of the Royal Canal to the town some years ago, while the opening of the railway to it within the last few years has conferred considerable advantages upon it. The main street is wide and regular, and the private houses and shops very respectable. The Court House, a handsome plain building, is situated in the main street, and centre of the town, and is entered beneath a small portico formed by two columns in the front, and four pilasters in the rear, which support a neat pediment. A small turret, surmounted by a cupola supporting a weathercock, rises from the middle of the roof. The principal hotel, a very good house, adjoins this building. The military barracks, capable of accommodating about four companies of infantry, are situated in the north end of the

town, near the bridge which crosses the Camlin river. They were originally intended for cavalry, and possessed the necessary adjuncts in stabling and hospital accommodation. An extensive mill occupies one of the banks of the river a short distance east of the bridge. The Protestant church is situated in the north end of the town, beyond the intersecting river and the military barracks. It is a plain and irregular building, with a transept extending on the north, and a semicircular projection on the south side. A tower of three stages, with angular pinnacles and a neat spire, stands at its western end. The market-house, a very plain building, is situated in an open space at the south end of the town, and, together with a butter market, shambles, and corn stores, was erected by the Earl of Longford. The markets are held on Wednesday and Saturday. The latter, which is the principal market, is well supplied with corn and all kinds of provisions, and is very numerously attended. There are four fairs in the year. The artillery barracks are situated about half a mile from the town, on the road to Newtownforbes, and are capable of rendering accommodation to about 140 men and their officers, with a hospital for about twenty patients, and stabling for sixty horses. Both barracks were in 1855 occupied by one of the Irish militia regiments. The jail, erected in 1825, on the radiating principle, is well adapted to the classification of prisoners. There are also a County Infirmary and Dispensary in the town. A branch of the Bank of Ireland was opened here in 1834.

The tourist, as he passes through the Irish provinces, however he may regret the want of industrial establishments, so essential to the general advancement of the country, and to the comfort and happiness of the people, from the employment they would afford, cannot fail to be impressed with the manifestations of zeal and devotion which, under every disadvantage, are displaying themselves in the shape of new and beautiful temples for Roman Catholic worship. In no part of Ireland are these high and holy feelings more strikingly exemplified than in the town of Longford, where a large and magnificent cathedral, with an attached palace for the bishop, and apartments for the parochial clergy, was at this time being built. This grand undertaking was commenced several years ago by the late Right Reverend Dr. Higgins, the Catholic Bishop of Ardagh. But from the great extent of the building, and the grandeur and style of the design, together with the distress of the people consequent upon repeated years of famine, the progress of this great work was necessarily retarded. Now, however, under the direction of his lordship's successor, the Right Reverend Dr. Kilduff, it was rapidly approaching to that completion so ardently wished for by every one who takes an interest in such establishments. This splendid building is 230 feet in length, from the front of the portico to the porch in the rear, which forms the entrance to the palace of the Lord Bishop. The breadth of the transepts is 140 feet; the breadth of the

nave, 86 feet; and that of the aisles, 20 feet 6 inches in the clear. The height from the floor to the ceiling is 68 feet, and the height of the tower will be 210 feet. The entire building is of cut granite, the lower range rising to the belting course being of fine rustic workmanship, and the upper part plain. A massive pilaster rises on each extremity of the front, and on each side of the nave, and another beyond the first window of the nave on each side; others of the same character rise on the sides of the transepts, all ending in plain Doric capitals, and supporting an entablature complete in all its parts, surmounted by a final blocking course. The portico was not at this time erected, but the parts by which it will be connected with the front were prepared for the reception of their massive and permanent adjuncts. This stately appendage to the cathedral will consist of Ionic columns 4 feet in diameter, supporting a rich entablature and pediment. Besides the grand central door, there is one in each extremity of the front and in each transept. On entering the church the visitor becomes struck with the number, strength, and beauty of the columns that divide the aisles from the nave. There are twelve columns on each side with Ionic capitals, the two first having their capitals standing at right angles. Between these columns and each aris, which is defined by a proportionable pilaster, spring the fine semicircular arches, twelve on each side, and above them an equal number of clerestory windows, also of semicircular character. A similar number of pilasters, one opposite to each column, rise upon the side walls, and between them in alternate succession are the windows and handsome niches, six of each on either side of the church. The niches are to be furnished with statues of the twelve apostles. A belt course runs beneath the windows on the inside as well as on the outside of the building. The noble semicircular recess, in which will stand the grand altar, contains five niches, between which rise elegant pilasters; these niches will also be furnished with appropriate statues. The domelike ceiling of this recess or chancel will be exceedingly grand, while the ceiling in general will be of the most elaborate workmanship. The cathedral is in the Grecian Ionic style of architecture, and the architect is Mr. Burke, of the City of Dublin. The apartments for the use and accommodation of the bishop and his curates are in the rear of the cathedral, and show a fine rich front, which is entered by a lofty porch, on each side of which there are two windows, with five windows in each of the two upper stories. The centre of the front displays an additional story, containing three windows, as it rises thus high above the flanking sides. Over the side windows of each story rise handsome pediments; all the windows are of plain domestic character, with frames and mullions of stone. The windows of the church, six on each side, including one in each transept, have finely rounded arches, and are surmounted by handsome pediments. It will take some years to complete this grand church in all its details; however, much has been already accomplished, when

we take into consideration that the building of the walls alone cost nearly £30,000. Looking at it as a whole, it is the largest ecclesiastical structure which has been erected in this country in modern times; for, although the grand cathedral of Armagh, now being built, will be larger as a church, the Longford Cathedral, with its palatial adjuncts, is more extensive as a building.

The old church, a cruciform structure, is immediately in the rear of the cathedral, and is as plain and limited in its dimensions, as its successor will be rich, ornamental, and commodious. This grand building is called St. Mel's Cathedral, which appellation its humble predecessor also bore, having been dedicated to that great saint, who was Bishop of Ardagh, and nephew of the great and illustrious apostle St. Patrick. The sister of our great apostle, Dererca, was the mother of St. Mel, to whom his uncle, while holding him over the baptismal font, gave his own name. This saint was also the brother of St. Secundinus, or Seaghlin, Bishop of Dampach-Sechnaild, now Dunshaughlin, in Meath. We are informed that he composed a hymn in honour of his relative and master, the Apostle of Ireland; on whose death he retired to the abbey of Glaston, or Glastonbury, in Somersetshire, in England, where he ended his days.

We are informed that Longford, anciently called Athfadha, was at a very early period the site of a monastery, of which St. Idus, a disciple of St. Patrick, was abbot. It appears also, that in the year 1400 a Dominican abbey was founded here, and dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, by O'Farrel, Prince of Annally, which was the name of the district comprised in the present county of Longford. This house, it seems, was destroyed by fire in 1429. It was subsequently restored, and appears to have subsisted till the dissolution of religious houses, after which it was granted to different parties during the reigns of Mary and Elizabeth, but was finally granted to Francis, Viscount Valentia, in 1615, by James I., who had previously granted privilege for holding a market and fair here. Francis, Lord Aungier, who had about this time obtained the proprietorship of the town, received from the same monarch a grant for holding an additional market and two fairs in 1619. We are told that the castle of this place, from its great strength, was deemed a post of much importance. In 1641, it was taken by the Confederate party from the O'Farrels, and the garrison put to the sword. Longford continued to send two members to the Irish parliament until the passing of the Act of Union, when, like the generality of the Irish boroughs, it was disfranchised.

The small town of Newtownforbes is situated about three statute miles from Longford, on the road leading to Carrick-on-Shannon. It is a plain open village, with a row of tolerable houses on each side of its single street. Towns of this class, when situated so near to the principal or county town, are seldom remarkable for prosperity, especially when they have no local trade or manufactures to assist

them against the effects of the centralisation system, so actively in operation in these days of progress. For this reason the proximity of this place to Longford is rather unfavourable than beneficial to it. Castle Forbes, the seat of the Earl of Granard, is in the immediate vicinity of the town, the avenue being entered by a large gateway in the centre of it. The demesne of this exceedingly popular and excellent nobleman is of considerable extent, well wooded, and surrounded by a boundary wall. As seen from the coach-road, it shows to fine advantage. The Protestant church, a neat edifice, is situated in the centre of the town, and near the entrance to the castle, which is of long standing. The Catholic church, a good house of worship, is situated on the opposite side of the street, and adjacent to it the neat residence of the parish priest. At the northern extremity of the town is an ancient churchyard, surrounded by trees of long standing, which give a solemn and sombre appearance to what, in itself, is calculated to call forth feelings of sober seriousness. At a short distance from this burial-ground, on a handsome sloping verdant lawn, is the ruin of a small tower of considerable antiquity. Efforts were made many years since by the then proprietor, the Earl of Granard, to introduce manufactures into the town; but, like many other patriotic and praiseworthy attempts of the same kind made in other localities, although they were for a time partially successful, they proved ultimately unavailing.

I shall conclude my observations touching the county of Longford with a brief notice of Edgeworthstown, which, independently of the interest it derives from the amiable and highly-gifted family from which it takes its name, is well entitled to the traveller's attention. This remarkably neat and interesting place is a parish in the barony of Ardagh, about four miles from Longford, on the road leading to Mullingar. The character and appearance of this nice town are such as to call up feelings of pride and pleasure in the mind of an Irishman—its wide and regular street, and its well-built houses, alike entitling it to rank with an English town of the same class. It derives no small celebrity from being the birthplace of the great Miss Edgeworth, the renowned authoress. The house, wherein the father of this distinguished lady—himself a literary character of no mean pretensions—kept his boarding school, is situated in the centre of the town, and is pointed out with pride by the natives of the place. The family residence, by its richness and beauty, cannot fail to attract the notice of the tourist, the more especially as it is situated in the immediate vicinity of the town, and adjoining the road leading thereto. The appearance of the house is calculated in an eminent degree to engender the most pleasurable ideas of rural comfort and refinement, the entrance being formed by a nice veranda in front of the slightly projecting handsome centre, above which rises an ornamental pediment, while the receding flanking sides or wings are enriched and coated with verdant creepers. The lawn in front of the mansion is

of considerable extent, and is studded with beautiful trees of great age and large growth, the whole presenting an appearance as capacious and exuberant as the heart of its highly-gifted mistress was enlarged and benevolent, and her pure mind well-stored and exhaustless. The Protestant church of Edgeworthstown is graced with a nice tower and fluted spire, the latter constructed of cast iron, and, from its elevated site, appears a handsome and conspicuous feature. The Catholic church of the parish is also a spacious and well-built edifice, and is very largely attended. There are several schools in the town.

Westmeath, as before stated, was part of the kingdom of Meath, when the island was divided into five separate kingdoms, and was then known as the western division of the monarch's territory. As at present circumstanced, it is bounded on the east by the county of Meath; on the north, also by Meath, as well as Cavan and Longford counties; on the west, by Longford again, and the county of Roscommon; and on the south, by the King's County. On the settlement of the English in Leinster, Hugh de Lacy made grants of large tracts in this county to his friends and followers, among the principal of whom were Pettit, Tuite, Hussey, D'Alton, Delamare, Dillon, Nugent, and Geneville. It was not until the reign of Henry VIII. that the ancient palatinate of Meath was divided, when the eastern portion of it retained its former name, and the western was distinguished by that which it now bears. Longford was a portion of the latter division until the time of Elizabeth, when it was formed into a distinct county. The surface of this county is finely diversified by hill and dale, and in many parts is strikingly picturesque, although lacking to a considerable extent the true essential of scenic and rural beauty, namely, timber. This most desirable appendage to a well-favoured country formerly abounded in this county, but the great consumption of it for charcoal in the old iron works, which were extensively carried on, and the neglect of proper measures to supply the deficiency arising from this cause, has rendered it necessarily scarce. On Knock Eyne, on the shores of Lough Dereveragh, which rises to a height of about 850 feet, as well as on the sloping sides of Knockross, in the same vicinity, are to be seen quantities of stunted oak and brushwood, the remains of ancient forest trees. None of the hills are so high as to preclude agricultural improvement, and therefore, in this respect, there is little waste land in the county. The lakes, however, are large and very numerous, and, as they are generally studded with picturesque islands, which give a charming diversity and beauty to their respective localities, this county, notwithstanding the want of ornamental timber, can lay claim to traits of a peculiarly interesting description, which cause it to rank above many of the counties of Leinster. The lakes, for the most part, are situated in the northern and central parts of the county.

Mullingar, the capital and Assize town of this county, is situated on

the river Brosna, which is fed by the waters of Lough Ennel, through which it passes from north to south, and lies midway between this lake and Lough Hoyle. Its fine position in an open and fertile country, and its proximity to the Royal Cañal, by which it may be said to be bordered, combined with the facilities afforded by railway communication, confer upon it advantages of a more than ordinary character. The feeding qualities of its pasture have long been rendered proverbial by the superiority of the stock it produces, which are said to carry beef to the heels. It is a parish, partly in the barony of Fartullagh, but chiefly in that of Moyashel and Magheradernon, twenty miles from Longford, and about forty by coach from Dublin. The town may be said to consist of one principal or main street of nearly a statute mile in length, from which several of smaller size branch off in different directions. The houses are, for the most part, regular and well built, and the shops in general respectable. The market is held on Thursday, and is well supplied with the usual commodities. There are four fairs in the year, whereat wool, horses, cattle, and pigs are disposed of in large quantities. There are a couple of good hotels in the town, where the pleasure-seeking tourist or man of business can find excellent accommodation, with cars to convey him to the neighbouring lakes, which are well stocked with fish.

The County Court House, a handsome and well-arranged building, suited to the size and character of the town, shows a nice granite front, the lower story of which is of fine rusticated workmanship, with five arches, the door being in the rear of the three central ones, and a window in that on each extremity. The upper story displays five arched windows, corresponding in style and appearance with those in the lower story. Above the centre of the front rises a massive pedestal, evidently intended to support a statue, but which still remains unfurnished. The jail, erected in 1828, and situated immediately in front of the Court House, is an eligible and commodious building, in which are comprised nine wards, with day and working rooms, 100 sleeping cells, a tread-mill, infirmary, chapel, airing-yards, and all the requisite offices. The governor's house is in the front of the prison, and commands a view of the several wards and airing-yards. The County-Infirmary, a spacious and well-conducted establishment, is situated on the Dublin road. The military barracks are of considerable extent, and occupy a favourable site on a gentle elevation at one extremity of the town. They are capable of accommodating a full regiment, with stabling for about twenty horses, and hospital accommodation for eighty patients. The market-house, a commodious building, is situated in the centre of the town. On visiting the union workhouse, in the autumn of 1855, I was gratified to find that a considerable decrease had taken place in the number of the inmates.

The Catholic church of Mullingar, which may be considered the cathedral of the diocese of Meath, is a very fine structure, with a hand-

some granite front, the broad centre of which projects slightly. The principal door is flanked on each side by a semi-hexagon turret, terminating in embattled ornaments. Above this door is a fine Gothic window, of two mullions, over which rises an ornamental trifolium, supporting a large Gothic cross. Another slender tower, of similar character, also terminating in embattled ornaments, rises on each extremity of the central projection, showing below the belting course of the first story a semi-window, and in the upper story, a Gothic window of a single mullion. In each of the slightly receding extremities of the front is a door, and above it a handsome circular window, while a nice flanking minaret, with final ornaments, gives a finish and completeness to the rich façade. In the rear of the chancel rises a campanile, with an octagonal pinnacle on each of its angles, which terminates in an open minaret; while each side of the summit is decorated with a granite parapet of embattled character. The ringing chamber of the tower, in which has been placed a very powerful bell, is distinguished by a Gothic louvre window in each of its four sides.

The interior of this church is very fine, the principal altar being enriched with a splendid representation of the Descent from the Cross, and the side altars with excellent paintings, one of them the Last Supper, and the other the Circumcision of our Lord. Above each of the side altars is a handsome stained-glass window. In the rear of the gallery, which stands above the principal entrance, is the very fine organ; while the sacristy and vestry stand on each side of the chancel tower.

A new college was at this time being built in the rear of the cathedral, and was then in a forward state. As viewed from the rear it forms three sides of a quadrangle, and is constructed of hammered limestone, with door-jambs, window-edgings, and chimneys of granite. The principal front, which consists of a centre and two wings, is about 120 feet in length, and is entered by a handsome door in the central projection, on each side of which stand coupled pilasters, supporting a light entablature. Before the centre of each of the side fronts, which are about 80 feet in length, is a handsome portico, formed by pillars and pilasters. The works were proceeding with great vigour, a large number of men being engaged upon them.

The residence of the Right Rev. Dr. Cantwell, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Meath, and his lordship's curates, is situated at a short distance from the cathedral. The convent of the Nuns of the Presentation order, is in the same vicinity, which is a healthful and agreeable locality. Large numbers of girls are educated and instructed in useful works by the pious and charitable ladies of this establishment. The Protestant church, a spacious cruciform building, in the later English style of architecture, with a handsome tower and graceful spire, is situated in the popular burial-ground of the town. This fine church was rebuilt in 1813, at an expense of £3,500, of

which about £2,300 were raised by parochial assessment, and the remainder advanced as a loan by the Board of First Fruits.

While in the churchyard I noticed among the tombs one, erected in the year 1683, by Sir James Leigh, Knight, and Dame Mary his wife, as a burying-place for themselves and their posterity. There are places of worship in the town for Presbyterians and Wesleyan Methodists.

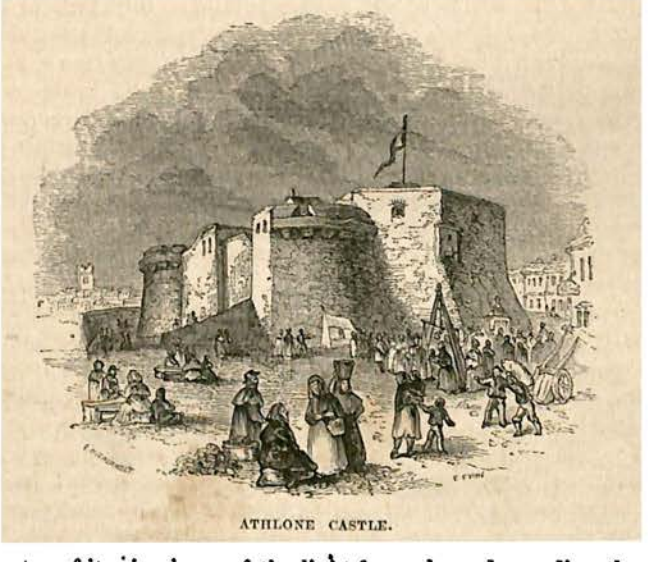
The new Lunatic Asylum, which was at this time nearly ready for the reception of patients, is a very extensive and beautiful building, in the old English style of architecture. It is elaborately wrought, and built on the plan of those which are to be seen at Cork, Kilkenny, Sligo, and Killarney.

In the year 1227 we find that Ralph Petyt, Bishop of Meath, founded a priory at Mullingar for Canons Regular of the order of St. Augustine, which he dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, and which was long designated the "House of God of Mullingar." A Dominican friary was founded here in 1237 by the family of Nugent, which attained such celebrity that grand chapters of the order were repeatedly held in it. It has been stated that the monks of the renowned abbey of Multifarnham, in the year 1622, commenced the erection of a Franciscan friary here, but it is thought that it was never completed. The two other monasteries continued to subsist till the reign of Elizabeth, when they were dissolved. In the year 1583, Queen Elizabeth granted to the inhabitants a patent for holding two fairs of three days each, the tolls of which were to be appropriated to the fortification of the town, which was greatly exposed to the enemies of the English government. In 1641, the castle and the dissolved monasteries, with the town and the adjoining lands, were, by royal charter, granted to Sir Arthur Forbes, ancestor to the Earl of Granard, and erected into a manor, with extensive privileges. By the same charter Mullingar was constituted the Assize town of the county. Although the charter of Charles II. conferred upon the town the privilege of sending two members to the Irish parliament, it did not invest it with corporate powers. In the war of the Revolution this town was occupied and strongly fortified by General de Ginkel, and became the head quarters for the Williamite forces. From this garrison this general led 2,000 horse and 1,000 foot against the Irish supporters of James II., who had encamped at Ballymore. It was also the head-quarters of William's forces preparatory to the siege of Athlone. Of the castle here mentioned, and the monasteries, there are now no remains. In this parish, which contains 17,000 acres, there is not much waste, but a considerable quantity of bog. The extensive lake, Lough Hoyle, is situated nearly in the centre of the county, and in the most elevated portion of it. There are four islands in this lake, on one of which is an ancient small chapel of rude masonry, with an attached burial-ground, in which interments occasionally take place. It is much resorted to by pilgrims from distant parts of Ireland. The other islands are nicely

planted, and appear to much advantage as seen from the line of road leading to Sligo. Some beautiful and picturesque seats situated on its borders can also be seen from this route. Among these, Mount Murray, the fine house and demesne of Henry Murray, Esq., presents a charming appearance, as does the magnificent demesne, the residence of Sir Richard Levinge, Bart., called Knockdrin Castle, which is near the town. The very beautiful seat of Lord de Blaquiere, enriched with splendid plantations, is situated on the western bank of this lake. The line of railway to Longford runs for a considerable distance along the eastern bank of the lake, and for a short space through a portion of the lake itself. The line from Dublin to Mullingar, with a few very slight deviations, runs along the bank of the Royal Canal. There are several ancient raths in this parish, and at Kinna the ruins of an old church. At Beardstown, and also at Balthrasna, are to be seen the remains of some ancient fortresses. In former times the title of Baron of Mullingar was conferred on the head of the Petit family.

On leaving Mullingar for Athlone, which is twenty-two miles by the railway, are obtained excellent views of Lough Ennel, which lies south-west of the town, and of the rich and picturesque scenery which ornaments its banks. Approaching the town of Athlone, which is considered the centre of the island, extensive turf bogs of deep strata excite the attention of the tourist. There are many features in the ancient town of Athlone well worthy of the stranger's notice. Amongst the most important of these is the splendid bridge which crosses the Shannon, at a short distance north of the site of the former bridge, and immediately north of the castle. This fine structure is in the style of the magnificent Wellesley Bridge, in the city of Limerick. It is nearly 400 feet in length, and consists of three fine elliptic arches, and an iron revolving bridge on the Connaught side, for the convenience of the steamers and other boats to pass up and down the river. This bridge, with the well-built quays and the capacious lock, one of the largest in Ireland, were all finished in the year 1844. The latter valuable works are situated at some distance south of the bridge, and are admirably suited to the enhancement of the traffic of the town. A short canal has been constructed on the Connaught side, which enables boats navigating the river to avoid the rapids near the bridge. This artificial cut is crossed by handsome bridges, which give additional importance to the extensive works erected on this side. Steamers are every day plying between Athlone and Carrick-on-Shannon, on the upper part of this famous river, which here divides the province of Leinster from that of Connaught, and towards Limerick on the lower part of it. About half a mile north of the fine bridge just mentioned, the new iron railway bridge crosses the river. This, although a light and elegant structure, is of a strong and substantial character. The river at this point is also about 400 feet in breadth, and the bridge nearly 600 feet in length, and therefore, besides crossing the waters of the river, it passes over an ample road-

way which runs along its banks on either side. This beautiful and highly ornamental bridge is supported on twelve massive Doric pillars of ten feet diameter. They are composed of an outside casing of cast metal, which is filled up with stone and mortar. A swivel-bridge, supported on the four central pillars, with its extremities resting on the intermediate ones, two on each side, opens a passage for the steamers and other boats that ply upon the upper part of the river. That portion of the town which lies upon the western or Connaught side of the river has quite a new and comfortable appearance. This may be attributed to the extensive military barracks, the several batteries, and the important railway works, including the very handsome station-house. The military works, comprising the barracks, the castle, the batteries, and the grounds appertaining to them, spread over an area of more than seventy statute acres. More than thirty of these acres are under the barracks and their appurtenances, and the remainder under the fortifications. The castle, which stands on an eminence immediately South of the new stone bridge, on the Connaught side, is a massive tower of decagonal form, being three stories in height, and is now used as a barrack. It is lighted by a dome in



ATHLONE CASTLE.

the centre of its circular roof, the light from above descending through gratings to the apartments in the lower stories. The elevated mound on which the platform is based, is supported on the side next the river by a stupendous wall, having a strong circular tower flanking its north and south angles. It is bounded on the side next the town by the dwellings of the officers, and walls of a high and defensive character. On its other sides modern works have been raised, which

are mounted with cannon that command not only the approach on the Connaught side, but also the bridge itself. These several protective works, with the carefully fortified entrance, give to this ancient stronghold a very formidable appearance. There are about twenty guns, some of them 18-pounders, planted on its several sides. A sergeant and thirty-five men of the 2nd or Queen's Royals were stationed in the castle at this time. The other fortifications occupy an irregular semicircular sweep west of the barracks and the town, the radius being about a mile in extent from the No. 1 battery on the side of the river to the north, to No. 6 battery on the south. Five of these batteries mount three 12-pounders each, while No. 3 battery mounts three 24-pounders, and two 8-inch howitzers. The guns were all looking fresh and clean. They had been recently labelled, and were marked September, 1853. The barracks are advantageously situated on the side of a gentle elevation, having the railway bridge on the north, and the new stone bridge on the south. The principal entrance is in front of the castle, and leads into the spacious yard, on one side of which are situated the officers' quarters, the armoury, and stores. Another spacious yard lies north and west of this area, and is entered from the road which skirts the canal. A third entrance, near the railway, leads into that part of the barracks where the ordnance offices are situated. These extensive yards afford ample space for parade and drill purposes. Cooking houses, washing houses, and baths are provided for the health and convenience of the troops. These barracks are capable of affording accommodation to nearly 600 infantry, 300 of the artillery, with stabling for 200 horses, a hospital for 100 patients, an ordnance depôt, and magazines. In the armoury, which is a detached building, are generally contained 15,000 stand of arms, in which are included the muskets of eight regiments of militia of the central counties. By virtue of an agreement between the Ordnance Board and the railway company, the latter, in lieu of a piece of ground which was given to them by the government, were bound to erect a new boundary wall around the barracks; and they have faithfully performed their contract; for a finer wall than that which now surrounds these premises cannot be seen in any place. This garrison forms the head-quarters for the northern district, and the residence of the major-general and his staff. Near the site of the ancient monastery of St. Peter in this section of the town, and within the churchyard appertaining to it, is the handsome Protestant church, to which the military resort for divine service at ten o'clock on Sundays. A second service takes place at twelve o'clock for the convenience of the inhabitants.

The Catholic church in this quarter is a commodious modern building, finely situated within an extensive area, in which is also the neat residence of the parish priest, the venerable Archdeacon O'Reilly, and his curates. A convent and small chapel of the Friars of the Augustinian order are likewise situated in this part of the town. The

Court House and attached bridewell, the office of the Provincial Bank, and a branch of the great firm of Russell and Company, of Limerick, are situated on this side. On this side also is situated the Ranelagh School, a quadrangular building, with a small square tower in the centre of the eastern front. In this institution, which at this time was undergoing considerable improvement, having extensive additions made to it, a limited number of boys receive their education, from funds allocated for that purpose by its founder, Lord Ranelagh; but the greater number of the pupils are boarders and day-scholars, who pay for their tuition.

The old town of Athlone, which is situated on the Leinster side of the river Shannon, is of plain appearance, the streets in general, like most of the other ancient towns, being narrow and confined. There are, however, several good shops in them, which appear to command a remunerative business. The Protestant church, which is situated in the centre of a handsome cemetery, was rebuilt in the year 1826, by a grant from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and is a neat edifice, with a square embattled tower. The tower of the old church is still standing at a short distance from the present building, and is said to contain the bell which gave the signal to King William's army to cross the river at the celebrated siege of the town.

The Catholic church of this part of the town, an old and cruciform building, has lately been replaced by a new and handsome edifice in the Gothic style of architecture. This fine church, which like its predecessor is dedicated to St. Mary, is enviably situated on an elevated site which commands an extensive prospect, in which is included the noble Shannon. It is 130 feet in length, 66 feet along the transepts, and 57 feet across the nave and aisles, the height to the ridge of the roof being 66 feet. The tower, which is supported by angular buttresses, is surmounted by a graceful spire, from which rises a mediæval cross, the summit of which from the floor of the church is 200 feet in height. The chancel and side chapels are lighted by handsome traceried windows, enriched with stained glass; while those of the transepts are of lofty triplet character. The well-proportioned west window consists of five lancet compartments, the aisles and clerestory being lighted by double lancet windows with finely moulded arches.

The Convent of the Friars of the Franciscan order, with its neat chapel, is situated in this division of the town; in which are also good houses of worship for Wesleyan Methodists and Baptists. The union workhouse is nicely situated on the Leinster bank of the river, about midway between the railway bridge and the fine stone bridge already mentioned, and in the immediate vicinity of the Abbey churchyard, the popular burial-ground of the town. Here, as well as in other parts of Ireland, there was the most decided evidence of returning prosperity, the number of inmates being less by nearly one-half than it was in the previous year. The opening of the railway to Athlone has been productive of the best consequences, having greatly

increased the traffic on the river, as well as having augmented the business of the town in general. At Rourke's Hotel, which is situated on the Leinster side of the river, and is a large and well-conducted establishment, there was every appearance of good business. Lough Ree, an extensive and picturesque lake, is entered from the Shannon about a mile from the railway bridge; there are several islands in this lake, of which Hare Island is the largest. A regatta generally takes place upon this lake in the month of August; and horse-racing occasionally at Ballykeran, about two statute miles from the town. There are several fine seats in the neighbourhood of Athlone, and also some remnants of antiquity, including vestiges of an ancient castle of the O'Briens, at a place called Courson, about a mile from the town. Athlone was governed under a charter of incorporation, granted to the borough by James I., up to the year 1841, when the small boroughs were abolished by the Municipal Corporations Act. It is now governed by a body of town commissioners, who, among other improvements, caused the town to be lighted with gas. The markets are held at the foot of the bridge and beneath the walls of the castle on the Connaught side, and near the eastern extremity of the town on the Leinster side. There are several mills and large stores upon both sides of the river. While here the tourist should avail himself of the opportunity to visit the renowned Clonmacnois, which, in the Roman Catholic divisions, is called the Seven Churches, and is a parish in the barony of Garrycastle, King's County, eight miles from Athlone. This ancient place of learning and piety, so interesting to the scholar and the antiquarian on account of its once splendid abbey, and the remains of the other ecclesiastical buildings in its vicinity, was founded by St. Kieran the Younger, and soon became a bishop's see. The name of this celebrated place leads to the supposition that it was intended as a place of sepulture for kings and princes, as, according to a learned and ingenious writer, William Beauford, Esq., Clonmacnois signifies "the retirement or resting-place of the sons of the chiefs." This supposition becomes strengthened by the fact of its being chosen as a burial-ground by a large number of distinguished persons who founded the several churches, the ruins of which can still be traced here. Among these were Temple Righ, or Melaghlin's Church, built by O'Melaghlin, King of Meath; Temple O'Connor, built by the O'Connor Don; Temple Kelly; Temple Finian, or MacCarthy's Church, built by MacCarthy-More, of Munster; Temple Hurpan, or MacLaffy's Church; Temple Kieran; Temple Gauney; Temple Doulin, which is now the Protestant parish church; and Temple Mac Dermot; this last was much more extensive than any of the others. Besides the abbey and these several churches, there was Temple Easpie, or the Bishop's Chapel, now in ruins, and at some distance west of the cemetery are the remains of the episcopal palace, a strong castellated building. Here also are two round towers, the largest of which, called O'Rourk's Tower, now roofless,

is 62 feet in height, 56 in circumference, and the walls 3 feet 8 inches thick. The other, called MacCarthy's Tower, is 56 feet high, including its conical roof, 7 feet in diameter in the interior, and the walls, which, like those of the former, are constructed of hewn granite, about 3 feet thick. There are four ancient crosses to be seen here, one of which, standing near the western door of one of the churches, is of great antiquity, and consists of a single stone, on which appears some rude carving and an inscription, which is considerably defaced by time. The most considerable of these ruins is that of the cathedral, the doors of which are richly carved. There are several monuments within it, on which are inscriptions, partly in Hebrew, and partly in Irish.

Returning from this exceedingly interesting and venerable place, and proceeding from Athlone to the ancient town of Galway, the tourist may, with perfect convenience, pay a visit to the town of Ballinasloe, as remarkable at present for its celebrated fair, as it was in times long gone by for its large defensive castle. A very beautiful Catholic church has been erected here within the last seven years. The ancient borough town of Athenry also presents itself on this route, and is not unworthy of the traveller's notice. Among the interesting objects to be seen here, are the remains of the Dominican monastery, including the tower of its ancient church, and also the east or chancel window, which still affords evidence of its handsome design.

CHAPTER X.

GALWAY, TUAM, AND CLIFDEN.

THE extensive and important county of Galway, the most southern of the counties of the province of Connaught, is bounded on the east by the counties of Roscommon, King's County, and Tipperary. From the first of these counties it is divided by the river Suck, and from the two others, by the Shannon. On the north it is bounded by the counties of Roscommon and Mayo; on the west, by the Atlantic ocean; and on the south, by the bay of Galway and the county of Clare.

At a very remote period this county was divided among various tribes and families. Of these tribes the De Burgos alone were of Anglo-Norman descent, and settled here in consequence of a grant, made by Henry III. to Richard de Burgo—designated the Red Earl of Ulster—of the whole kingdom of Connaught. When William de Burgo was assassinated, in 1333, without leaving any male heirs to succeed to his possessions in Connaught, two noblemen, who were of a younger branch of the family, one of whom assumed the name of MacWilliam Eighter, and the other that of MacWilliam Oughter, took the possession of all his estates in that province, and founded two powerful families, who continued to be distinguished by the above names for a long time. The designation *Eighter*, as we are informed, signified "nearer," and that of *Oughter* meant "further." MacWilliam Eighter became possessed of the lands comprehended within the county of Galway, and from his son Richard the name of Clanricarde was first given to his territory and his people. The last chieftain of Clanricarde, who bore the name of MacWilliam Eighter, was Sir William de Burgh, created Earl of Clanricarde by Edward VI. The family of Burke, otherwise De Burgh, or De Burgo in Ireland, derives its origin from William Fitz-Aldelm, one of the first of the English who landed in this country under Henry II. This nobleman was descended from Serlo de Burgo, son of a Norman lord, named Eustace. Serlo, having espoused Arlotte, mother of William the Conqueror, passed over with that prince into England. Of this marriage was born Robert, Earl of Cornwall, from whom descended William, who succeeded to the earldom. The latter was father to Aldelm, and John, who was father to Hubert de Burgo, Chief Justice of England and Earl of Kent. This functionary was deprived of his office, being

judged by his peers, in full parliament, and degraded, for having counselled King Henry III. to annul the Grand Charter, and abridge the liberties of his subjects. Aldelm was father to William, known by the name of Fitz-Aldelm, who accompanied Henry II. to Ireland. That monarch conferred upon him, by charter, five military fiefs in a place called Toth, where the castle of Canice, subsequently Castleconnel, is situated. He also gave him large estates in Connaught, where the noble family of the Burkes, his descendants, settled.

Another English colony was planted in the north-western extremity of the county, in the reign of Edward I., by Thomas Joyce, who married the daughter of an Irish chieftain. The people of this colony became tributary to the O'Flahertys, and adopted the Irish language and customs. That district still continues to be known as Joyces' country. The whole western portion of the county of Galway, between Lough Corrib and the Atlantic ocean, is generally called *Connemara*, which signifies the "bays of the ocean." Lough Corrib divides the county into two unequal portions, which differ considerably from each other. The eastern division is, for the most part, fertile, and comparatively level; while the western is rugged, mountainous, and, to a great extent, barren. Among the mountains of the western portion those of Benabola, commonly called the Twelve Pins, are the most elevated. They lie between Lough Corrib and Aghris Point in a westerly direction, and between Birtirbuy and Killery bays towards the north, covering an area of about six miles square, and consist of two ranges or groups, connected by the elevated pass of Maam Ina. Three-fourths of Connemara, properly so called, are considered to be about 100 feet above the level of the sea. The lakes of this county are very numerous, there being upwards of 150 of every size, the largest of which is Lough Corrib, which spreads over a surface of vast extent, and is studded with as many as a thousand islands. It receives several large rivers, and its outlet, near Galway, is both wide and rapid. The level of this lake is about 14 feet above high-water mark. Those next in importance to this lake are Lough Mask, Lough Conn, Lough Ree, Lough Baffin, and Lough Allen, the latter, like Lough Ree, being in the Shannon. The others are Lough Gara, Lough Arrow, and Lough Rea.

The town of Galway appears to have been considered from a very remote period a place of much importance, some writers going so far as to say that, even in the first division of the island, ascribed to Partholan, it was a very prominent point in the partition, In the subsequent division of Ireland, by Heber and Heremon, the sons of Milesius, —afterwards adopted by Conn of the Hundred Battles, and Eogan, King of Munster—it was fixed upon as the western termination of the line of demarcation, of which Dublin was the eastern extremity. At the time of the English invasion, the town, we are told, contained only a few families and some fishermen, under the protection of the O'Flahertys, who then held the castle and the surrounding district,

The first notice which appears in reference to it after that event, is the return of Feidlim O'Connor, King of Connaught, from the English court, whither he had gone to lay before the monarch of that country his complaints against Richard de Burgo. Hugh O'Flaherty, embracing the cause of Feidlim, fortified the castle of Galway, and in 1230 baffled every attempt of De Burgo to dispossess him. On the defeat, however, of Feidlim, about two years after, the town and castle fell into the hands of De Burgo, who, although he lost them again for a short time, ultimately recovered them, and made Galway his principal residence, and the capital of the province. He also strengthened it with additional fortifications, and established a municipal government, under a magistrate appointed by himself. In the year 1270, the erection of the walls of the town was commenced, and continued at intervals, by grants for that purpose, till the end of that century, when they were completed. The increased security of the place had the effect of inducing strangers to settle in it; among whom a number, consisting of thirteen, or, according to some authorities, fourteen families, known under the appellation of the "tribes of Galway," made it their abode, and devoting themselves to commerce, soon became enriched, and were the purchasers of lands in the neighbourhood.

Galway is an uncommonly interesting place; the great capacity of its bay, which affords safe and unrestricted entrance from the Atlantic, and the magnificent mountain range by which it is sheltered on the southern or Clare side, confer upon it natural advantages that cannot be exceeded in any part of her Majesty's dominions. I had an early opportunity afforded me of viewing to advantage this fine bay, having received an invitation from a native merchant to accompany him in a new boat, in which he was about to make a first trial trip. The boat was what may be called a regular Galway "hooker," possessing sailing qualities of the first order. In her we ran down the bay, and beneath the Clare mountains, at the rate of ten or eleven knots an hour, and, after proceeding to a considerable distance in an outward direction, returned through the centre of its broad and deep bosom, passing near the beacon that marks the Black Rock, the only rock in the whole expanse of this unrivalled bay. On approaching the harbour, I had pointed out to me the contemplated site for the much-desired breakwater, between Mutton Island and the shore. It would be a work of supererogation to dilate upon the advantages that would result from the construction of a work of this character, as the subject has been so ably treated, and the benefits that would arise therefrom so forcibly demonstrated, by parties much better qualified to form a judgment upon such matters than I can pretend to be. This much, however, I cannot avoid saying, that I deeply regret the niggard spirit which has been manifested by the government, in refusing so small a boon to this country, for an object of such importance in an imperial as well as in a national point of view. It will be exceedingly difficult to convince Irishmen that their interests receive full and impartial consideration

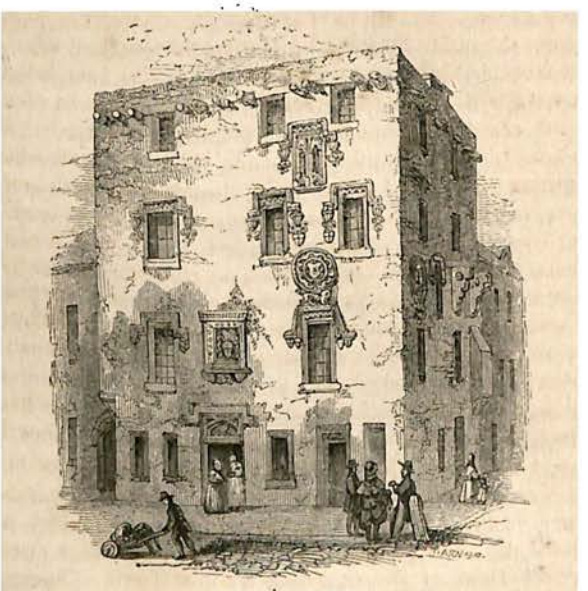
at the hands of the government and the legislature, when over a million has been expended on Holyhead harbour, and the comparatively small grant that would be required for Galway refused. Everything that could fairly be expected from local energy and exertion seems to have been done to attract attention to the capabilities of the port. This becomes apparent in the splendid new docks and quays which have been recently erected, and by the extensive drainage works that were at this time being carried out for the purpose of connecting Lough Corrib with the harbour. In these works hundreds of labourers were then employed.

The opening of the railway to Galway, with the palace-like hotel in connection with it, and the valuable works in the harbour, would lead a stranger to suppose that there is nothing now wanting but the countenance and support of a paternal government to make Galway what nature intended it to be—a very flourishing place, by the establishment of a Transtlantic packet station. Large quantities of fish are taken in the bay, and a considerable portion of the inhabitants supported from this source of industry, the railway affording them a speedy means of conveying the produce of their toil to the Dublin and other markets. Those who are employed in the fisheries reside in that part of the town called the Claddagh, which is a populous district. They are a primitive race, who live chiefly to themselves, seldom mixing with the other inhabitants of the town. Thus secluded, and, as may be supposed from their habits, to a great extent uneducated, their minds became tinged with superstitious notions, which, in many instances, operated greatly to their prejudice. They had set and stated periods for pursuing each description of fish, from which nothing could induce them to depart; and the consequence was that, not unfrequently, the shoals of fish which, prior to the time prescribed for their capture, were abundant in the bay, would take their departure before the arrival of the lucky day when these unsophisticated observers of a silly custom would think themselves at liberty to follow them. Nor would they permit others to fish except at such times as were in accordance with their absurd notions. To such an extent did they carry their prohibitory control, that a war steamer was obliged to be sent by the government to prevent their interference with persons who were engaged in the fishery, and who would not conform to their foolish mode of acting. It would seem that at last they have begun to discover that their system was a bad one, and that they had been great losers by so long adhering to it, as they now follow the fish on its first appearance in the bay, without reference to any prescribed or ominous day. Great pains have been taken by humane and charitable persons in endeavouring to bring them to this reasonable course of proceeding, amongst whom the Friars of the Dominican order appear to have been the most successful, as they have certainly been the most persevering. The convent and chapel of this pious order are situated in the section of the town where they reside, and to which the people of the Claddagh

resort for devotional purposes. The excellent teaching of these good and charitable clergymen, who render them the most valuable assistance by writing their letters and managing their correspondence regarding the sale of their fish in distant markets, together with other causes, has at length weaned them from many of their cherished and ridiculous customs. These clergymen have caused a neat and commodious school-house to be built for the education of their children. It is called the Piscatory School, and is attended by a daily average of 170 boys, who receive a good and useful education, in which is included navigation, so essential to persons engaged in nautical pursuits. This charitable brotherhood has also erected a very nice house for an industrial school, in which an average number of ninety girls are taught to work at several branches of industry, including sewed muslins and fishing nets. The prior of the order, the Very Reverend Father Folan, who employs the whole of his time in attending to these schools, showed me large quantities of nets which were manufactured by the girls, explaining, at the same time, how essential it is to the interests of the fishermen that a sufficient stock of these indispensable articles should at all times be in readiness for their use. It sometimes happens that an immense shoal of herrings enters the bay, in which perhaps they may remain only for a single fortnight; and, if the fishermen are not provided with a sufficient number of nets to take advantage of such a favourable juncture, great loss, as a matter of course, must be sustained by them. It not unfrequently happens that £50,000 worth of herrings are taken within this short space of time. Such are the blessings that this pious and devoted brotherhood are conferring on these poor unsophisticated people. Stores and drying-houses for the curing and preservation of fish have been established here by the gentleman with whom I had the pleasure of making my excursion through the bay, who, a short time since, exported an entire cargo of cod and ling of his own curing, a circumstance that has not taken place here within the remembrance of the oldest inhabitant. I visited his nice concerns, and saw fine samples of ling, which appeared to be of excellent quality. His enterprising efforts, if crowned with the success to which they are justly entitled, may have the effect of inducing others to follow his spirited example, and thereby become instrumental in creating a very profitable trade. A very brisk trade is being carried on here in the article of marine moss, which, when fully prepared by those who become the purchasers of it, is designated the "carrigeen moss." I saw several boats arriving here containing sacks filled with this article, and many horses laden with portions of it, and in many instances girls and women carrying it on their backs. Upon inquiry I was informed that a ready sale can be effected of any quantity of it that can be procured. This vegetable, which abounds in great plenty among the rocks that skirt the sea-shore in this part of Ireland, is gathered, washed, and dried chiefly by females, who are well remunerated for the time spent by them in thus preparing it for

the market. The opening of the railway has been the cause of greatly extending this branch of traffic, as, previously to its establishment, the cost of conveyance operated as a virtual prohibition of the trade. While the characteristics of the bay and harbour of Galway afford abundant materials for the contemplation of the speculative theorist, the political economist, and the enterprising champion of progress, the good old town abounds in objects of paramount interest to the historian, and to the Irishman whose mind is tinged with the poetic susceptibilities which arise from an examination of the remains of antiquity, that, even more sensibly than books, discourse of the grandeur of the past, and of the fame of his dear and beloved native land. In almost every street of this ancient town are to be seen striking mementoes of former grandeur, many of them falling into decay, and about to share the fate which a drear oblivion accords to man's best and greatest works, and to mundane things in general. While here I inquired for the house rendered memorable by the act of the stern and rigid father who, with a Roman firmness, or perhaps a Roman pride, became the instrument of retributive justice, in first condemning, and afterwards executing, his wretched son, for the perpetration of the foul crime of murder; and found that within these last few years it had been removed. This melancholy occurrence took place in the year 1493, when James Lynch Fitzstephen, then mayor, in order to prevent a rescue, caused his own son to be hanged from one of the windows of his house. Under this window were placed a carved skull and cross-bones, in memory of the tragical event. These emblems of mortality, which for ages stood in front of this remarkable dwelling, have been placed under the care of the town authorities, and are open to the inspection of the curious. Another remarkable house, a fine, courtly building, with a richly carved and highly ornamented arched entrance, above which appeared a nicely decorated and slightly projecting window, was, when I paid my visit, in the last stage of dilapidation, and required, if it were only for the public safety, to be removed. This large mansion is said to have been originally a convent of the Friars of the Augustinian order. A mansion of similar style and character, situated in Market Street, shows evident symptoms of weakness and decay. This remarkable building, which is a convent of the Nuns of the Poor Clare order, is of very long standing; its arched entrance and courtyard, together with its finely decorated, but still heavy and prison-like front, affording ample attestation of its early importance. There were at this time but two of the sisters of this venerable order, both elderly ladies, in the occupation of it. The most remarkable, as it is the most important and perfect, of these magnificent dwellings is that called Lynch's Castle, situated in Shop Street. It is a quadrangular building, showing two fronts, one to Shop Street, and the other to a street leading in a northerly direction. These fronts are enriched and decorated with armorial bearings, and with various figures of beasts and birds, and other allegorical devices, elegantly carved. This old

and lordly-looking mansion has been divided, and is at present occupied by private families, who carry on business in shops which have been fitted up in the lower story. In many parts of the town arched entrances, which lead into limited courts, afford evidence of the prevalence of a style the characteristics of which are decidedly Spanish.



LYNCH'S CASTLE.

A very general intercourse existed in former times between this town and Spain, with which country a considerable trade was carried on, and large quantities of wine imported. A custom still prevails in Galway, which is said to be very general in Spain, which is that of the neighbouring population congregating in large numbers on Sunday evenings in the town, where they remain walking the streets till an advanced hour. The peasantry for a distance of some miles, male and female, dressed in their best style, generally assemble on these occasions, and the town has a crowded and, to a certain extent, a gay appearance.

The ancient cathedral of Saint Nicholas, now the parochial church of the Establishment, a fine remnant of antiquity, is a large cruciform building, with a square central tower. It has been divested of some of its architectural beauties by modern repairs; however, it still retains, in its general construction, much that entitles it to the notice and admiration of the lover of the fine old English decorative style. Its internal appearance is strikingly impressive, its lofty pointed Gothic arches, and its richly groined ceilings giving it an air of great sublimity. There are several fine monuments to be seen here, many of

them to the memory of deserving public men. Among the ancient curiosities is a peculiarly rich and highly decorated small side altar, enriched with elegant carving, and also a large baptismal or holy-water font.

The Catholic cathedral, a fine strong structure, with a highly enriched Gothic front, surmounted by a handsome characteristic cross, is centrally situated, and in form is nearly a square, the nave being divided from the aisles by splendid Doric columns, from which spring capacious Norman arches, three on each side. The nave is lighted by a large central Gothic window, with one of smaller size on each side of it; and the aisles by windows corresponding with the smaller one just mentioned. The grand altar stands between double columns of the Corinthian order, with pilasters of the same order supporting an entablature, over which is a fine representation of the descent of our Redeemer from the cross; and above this again the nice organ. The new Catholic church of St. Vincent de Paul, is situated in an improved part of the town, and displays its enriched Gothic front to the street; the nave and the aisles having separate roofs. This, the western front, exhibits three distinct gables, the central one being adorned with a fine traceried Gothic window, and surmounted by a cross of elegant construction. Each of the flanking gables is entered by a handsome Gothic door, over which appears a window of corresponding beauty. This elegant church is flanked on the north by the convent of the Sisters of Mercy, which is connected with it by a square bell-tower. It is flanked on the south by the neat residence of the parish priest of the district, the Rev. Peter Daly, which presents a front harmonising with those of the church and the convent. These several interesting buildings and the school of the convent occupy a spacious area, and adjoin and group with the Abbey church and the convent of the Franciscan Friars, to whom this church belongs; the whole presenting a feature as delightful to the view as it is gratifying to the Christian heart.

The name of the Reverend Father Daly, the patriotic priest of Galway, is familiar to those who take an interest in the public proceedings of the day. At one time we find him presiding at a meeting of the body of commissioners, of which he was the chairman, strenuously recommending the adoption of measures of local improvement; and again we see him as the head of a deputation of his native town, impressing the minister of the day with the eligibility of the port of Galway to become a packet station; and clearly and cogently demonstrating the advantages that would result, both in a national and imperial view, from its becoming such. But in order to be fully acquainted with this extraordinary man, it is necessary that he should be seen at home. I have been so fortunate as to have seen him *there*. I have seen him within the sanctuary and at the altar, on an evening in the glorious month of June, offering up praise and benediction to the Most High God—the Lord of Hosts!—in the church raised by his

own exertions, surrounded by a docile community, of which he is himself the pastor and the guide, including the members of the pious and charitable sisterhood which he established, and their youthful pupils. Seldom have the beams of the summer's sun fallen upon a more touching and soul-moving scene than that which presented itself on this occasion. The solemnity of the service, the stillness and serenity of the closing day, its mild effulgence displaying itself through the windows of richly stained glass, the pealing of the sweet-toned organ, and the wreathing curls of the rising incense, all combining, produced such an effect on the minds of the congregation as He alone, in whose honour they were assembled, could fully understand. It may be truly said of this good priest that he can practise as well as preach.

St. Patrick's Catholic church, situated in the north-western section of the town, is also a new and handsome structure of moderate dimensions and oblong shape, being about 75 feet in length, by 33 in breadth, with a neat tower and ornamental steeple 120 feet in height. North-west of this church, on a rising ground, stands a large square house, which is a seminary, under the immediate direction of the Warden of Galway, the Very Reverend James Daly. The chapel of the Franciscan Friars, or, as it is called, the Abbey church, is a fine massive structure, of ample proportions, in the Grecian style of architecture. The portico is formed by four lofty fluted columns of the Doric order, with an entablature, surmounted by a pediment, supporting on its apex a ball and cross. A square bell-tower rises on the south-western side of the church, with a decorative pinnacle on each angle, and a cross on each side. The interior is spacious and lofty, and the aisles divided from the nave by fine fluted columns, five on each side, supporting a rich entablature. The altars, which are in keeping with the style of the church, are characteristically furnished; that in the centre being surmounted by an open pediment, and enriched with a fine representation of the Crucifixion, above which is a beautiful painting of St. Francis, the patron of the order. The convent of the brethren is situated immediately south of the church. The church of the Friars of the Dominican order, situated in the Claddagh, which signifies the sea-shore, is about 100 feet in length, by 30 in breadth. The convent of the pious brotherhood stands within a railed-in area, nicely laid out in ornamental flower beds, conveniently to the chapel. The convent of the Augustinian Friars is situated in a central part of the town; the chapel of the order, then a small edifice, was about to be rebuilt, the prior of the establishment having had money in his hands for that desirable purpose; accordingly in the year 1859 the new building was finished, consecrated, and opened for Divine service. An ancient convent of the order of the Franciscan Nuns, with an attached chapel, stands upon an island formed by the river as it winds through this part of the town, which handsome space is appropriately designated Nuns' Island. In the same neighbourhood, but not on the island, is situated

the convent of the Nuns of the Presentation order, with its nice chapel and attached school-house. In the eastern part of the town are a very neat Wesleyan chapel and school; there is also a Presbyterian house of worship in the town. The Court House for the county, and also that for the county of the town, both handsome buildings, are finely situated in the same vicinity, and in the north part of the town, each showing its rich front to the other. The county jail, which extends in the form of a crescent, is situated on the opposite side of the river, which is here crossed by a fine bridge of seven arches, with a rich protecting battlement. It is a very compact building, capable of containing a large number of prisoners, with the governor's house in the centre. The town prison may be said to stand within the same boundary, being merely separated from the former by a divisional wall. The numbers confined within these prisons at this time were comparatively small, being little more than one-fourth of what they contained about a year before.

The Queen's College, situated in the western suburbs, is a magnificent quadrangular building, the grand eastern front of which displays a rich projection, with ornamental minarets ending in spiral pinnacles. The principal entrance is in the projecting tower of this front, which, as well as the smaller towers that rise at some distance north and south of the grand entrance, is surmounted by a cupola of a peculiar construction. A rich projection appears on the north and south sides of the building, with pilasters ending in ornamental spires. On the western side, the examination-hall, a splendid church-like building, occupies the centre of the front; while on the north and south extremities are situated the apartments of the president and vice-president. Cupolas, similar to those already mentioned, surmount and ornament the towers, which rise at certain intervals on various parts of the building, and from their unique character present a somewhat singular appearance. The great extent of this institution renders it capable of accommodating about 500 students; the number up to this time, however, had never reached 100. At the foot of the bridge in the vicinity of this college, is situated the Fever Hospital; there is also a County Infirmary in the town. At a short distance south of the Queen's College is the union workhouse, a handsome concern, in which a considerable diminution of the inmates had taken place, as compared with the last year. In this vicinity, south of the poor-house, is situated the National Model School, a very neat and fanciful structure.

On the sides of the rapid river which flows through the western parts of the town, and which is fed by the waters of the great Lough Corrib, two distilleries, two breweries, and some eighteen flour mills, were at this time constantly worked, and afforded employment to a large number of persons. There are several bridges, some of them new, and others, with the exception of that in front of the jail, newly rebuilt, crossing the river at different points. Between the old bridge

and that which crosses the river near to where it falls into the harbour, is situated the Salmon weir, in which large quantities of that fish are usually taken.

Galway Green, also called Eyre Square, is a very extensive area, surrounded by wide and handsome streets, which contain some of the finest houses in the town. The centre or green is planted with trees and ornamental shrubs, and intersected with commodious and finely-gravelled walks, with convenient seats placed at different intervals, and surrounded with light and elegant railing. It is open from ten in the morning till an advanced hour in the evening, and is accessible to strangers, and to the inhabitants and their families who pay an annual sum of six shillings. In size and appearance it is equal to many, and superior to some, of the public squares in the principal cities. The magnificent Railway Hotel occupies a considerable portion of its eastern side, and by its fine proportions and admirable finish greatly enhances and beautifies the locality. The building materials in Galway are such as cannot be surpassed in any part of Ireland, and hence this grand hotel, with the adjoining station-house and railway works, the docks, quays, and bridges, present a very fine appearance. The County Club House and the Bank of Ireland are situated on the western side of the square, while the principal hotels, Kilroy's, Black's, and Webb's, are situated on its other sides. There are branches of the Provincial and National Banks in the town. We find that so early as the year 1270 walls were commenced for the protection of the town, and were completed about the end of that century. In the year 1312 the town was strengthened by what was called the Great Gate, and by other works, under the superintendence of Nicholas Lynch, surnamed the Black Marshal. In 1396, Galway obtained a charter of incorporation from Richard II., which charter was confirmed in 1402 by Henry IV. In 1484, a new charter was granted to the town, vesting its government in a mayor and bailiffs, and excluding the family of Clanricarde from exercising any authority within its limits. Under the charter of Charles II. the corporation consisted of a mayor, two sheriffs, and an indefinite number of free burgesses, the mayor being chosen from the burgesses. In the early part of the present century the greatest part of the town wall was removed, and generally built upon. One of the latest portions of it, together with a tower which stood attached to it, were removed to open the street which extends from the main street to the Court-houses. The entrances to the bay are through the north sound, between the Arran Isles, which are situated in the centre of its mouth, and Gulin Head to the north, on which there is a tower, and through the south sound, between Dunmacfelin and Inneshere islands. Thus it will be seen that an entrance can be effected at all times, and under all circumstances. The Custom House is a small plain structure, but sufficiently large for the present business of the port. Besides a body of town commissioners for the municipal government of the town,

there are harbour commissioners for the improvement of the harbour and quays. Under the judicious management and surveillance of these gentlemen, I trust that Galway will soon become what the friends of Ireland wish it to be—the point of communication with that great country of progress, America, and this country be rendered thereby the high road of a general intercourse between England and the far West. Owing to the indomitable perseverance of the patriotic Father Daly, and the great energy and enterprise of John Orrell Lever, Esq., M.P., the initiatory step has been taken for the accomplishment of this grand project; and although unforeseen circumstances have caused a temporary interruption, by the withdrawal of the government subsidy for the conveyance of the American mails, we have had, at the close of the parliamentary session of 1861, the word of the Prime Minister of England, Lord Palmerston, that this is the shortest and most eligible route by which an immediate intercourse can be established between the British empire and the great transatlantic continent.

Proceeding from Galway to Tuam, a distance of sixteen miles, the first object that attracts the particular attention of the tourist is the fine church ruin of Clare Galway, which is situated on the river Clare, about five miles from the town of Galway, and four miles from where this river falls into Lough Corrib. This ruin, formerly an extensive and splendid cruciform church, with a light and graceful tower standing upon a pointed arch of great symmetry and beauty in the centre of the building, and rising considerably above the highly-pitched roof, greatly resembles the grand ruin of Dunbrody Abbey, in the county of Wexford. Although not quite so extensive as the abbey just mentioned, its magnificent Gothic arches, and fine traceried windows, portions of which are still standing, justify the comparison, and afford evidence of the style and grandeur of this truly interesting place, and also give the beholder an adequate notion of what it was in its palmy days. A portion of the ruin has been converted into a residence for a couple of friars of the Franciscan order, whose small chapel, of comparatively recent erection, contrasts strikingly with the sublimity and grandeur of the ancient pile. The remains of Clare Galway Castle, formerly a strong fortress, whose massive keep, partially covered with ivy, and still in good preservation, stands on the other side of the road, are situated opposite the ecclesiastical ruin. Advancing onward, the tourist will notice Kiltulla Castle, the ancient seat of the Blake family; and at Corrofin the ruins of a castle and keep, formerly the residence of the family of Burke.

Tuam is evidently a very old town, and, although the centre of archiepiscopal dignity, is by no means remarkable for the regularity of its streets, or the generally improved character of its houses. In the centre of the town is a small but rather neat market-house, with a town-clock in the pediment, above which rises a tower surmounted by a cupola. The public news-room of the town is held in the upper

part of this building. There are a couple of good hotels in the town, one of them kept by Mr. Daly, who is also the proprietor of the principal hotel at Westport. A fine rapid river flows through the lower part of the town, and works an extensive mill, in which large quantities of flour are manufactured. The ample stores connected with this concern declare it to be of considerable importance. The quarter sessions of the peace for this division of the county being held here during my brief sojourn, I visited the Court House, a new structure, and found it to be by no means a convenient or well-constructed public building. There appeared to be a great deal of poverty in the town at this time, and I saw large numbers of poor women surrounding the residence of his Grace the Archbishop. That he is good and charitable may be deduced from this circumstance, for the poor rarely congregate around the dwellings of the unkind and hard-hearted. I felt naturally anxious to obtain the honour of an interview with this very distinguished prelate, whom the great O'Connell designated the "Lion of the fold of Judah." On presenting my card at the palace, I was so fortunate as to be admitted to his presence. He received me very kindly, being graciously pleased to converse with me for some time, and ultimately bestowed his benediction upon me. Indeed, I may say that his bearing was marked by an indulgent suavity, and he was condescending even to blandness. The appearance of this illustrious dignitary is perfectly in keeping with his exalted position and his fame, displaying at once a characteristic dignity, together with a natural quickness and an unmistakable energy, which are rendered strikingly obvious by his eagle glance. His contour of countenance is by no means so austere as it is represented in some of the prints and likenesses of him which I have seen. His fine, active figure is far above the middle size, and, considering his time of life, exhibits more than an ordinary degree of symmetry and vigour. "Taking him for all in all," he is a personage who, when once seen, cannot easily be forgotten. On visiting his Grace's splendid cathedral, I was amply repaid for the time consumed in my journey. It is delightfully situated in the centre of an extensive area east of the palace and the College of St. Jarlath, which immediately adjoin it. The convent of the Nuns of the Presentation order is approached from this fine area, and also the convent of the Sisters of Mercy. Large numbers of children are educated by the ladies of these convents, and extensive industrial works carried on under their direction. A very fine house situated near the Court House was at this time converted into an auxiliary to the Sisters of Mercy's convent, for this valuable and important purpose. The union workhouse, situated in this part of the town, had been relieved of a portion of its burthen by the industrial training of the good and charitable nuns.

The grand cathedral is a magnificent cruciform structure, built of hewn stone, and in the later English decorative style. It is graced by a lofty western tower, and ornamented by six square turrets, at

the angles and other parts of the building, which rise above the open parapet in octangular shape, and terminate in minarets, also of octangular form, and very richly wrought. Panelled buttresses, gradually decreasing, support the walls; these terminate in nicely wrought pinnacles, which rise above the open and traceried parapet, and have a very fine effect. The principal entrance is beneath the western tower, through a richly-moulded and finely-pointed arch; the entrances to the aisles and transepts are of similar design. A very lofty window, of elegant construction, ornaments the eastern end of the building, and the other windows are of corresponding richness, the whole presenting a truly splendid appearance. The internal arrangements are judicious and tasteful, combining the useful with the ornamental. The ceilings are highly enriched, and panelled into separate compartments with delicately wrought stucco. The grand eastern window is of stained glass, with Scriptural subjects, happily chosen and finely illustrated; while the windows of the transepts and aisles display their flowing tracery to the best possible advantage. The grand altar, of variegated marble, with the tabernacle and canopy, which were brought from Rome, are of exquisite chiseling. This grand cathedral was not at this time entirely finished, but even in its then state it might be justly considered one of the most beautiful churches in this country. The Protestant cathedral, which is also the parish church, is of great antiquity, and appears to be but a portion of the original building. It is a very interesting and beautiful specimen of former days. The magnificent arch by which it is entered, and the grand east window—and, indeed, all the other windows, which are enriched with stained glass, constitute it a real treat for the lover of the antique in Norman architecture. This splendid arch is formed of a peculiarly rich reddish gritstone, and is decorated with various and highly wrought devices; a representation of it was to be seen at the great Dublin Exhibition. The roof of the central tower, rising in a conical form, and surmounted by a ball, has a very remarkable and peculiar appearance: this tower, as we are informed, was erected in the year 1688. Its internal appearance is equally impressive, the finely moulded arch that supports the tower, and the very handsome arches of the gallery windows, being worthy of the highest admiration. There is a very beautiful organ in the gallery, and several monuments in the body of the church, one of them to a Dean of the cathedral, who was murdered by one of his own servants, in the year 1712, at the advanced age of seventy-three years. Among the most interesting of the objects to be seen in the ancient churchyard in which the cathedral is situated, are the four fragments of the great cross of Tuam, which, when united, formed so interesting a feature in the Dublin Exhibition. They were at this time lying in a separated state, apart from the base, which stands in the centre of the area in front of the entrance to the Catholic cathedral. The principal part or shaft of this interesting remnant of antiquity had, for many

years, been standing as a distinguishing monument at the head of the grave of Dr. Synge, a highly respected Archbishop of the Protestant Church, in the churchyard of the cathedral; and two of the other portions of it were lying in a part of the same churchyard. When exertions were being made to collect the several fragments for the Exhibition, another part of it was discovered as a chimney-piece in the house of a gentleman in the neighbourhood, who at once placed it at the disposal of the committee. At the close of the Exhibition it was again restored to its native place, and, whether wisely or the contrary, separated as above mentioned. There are several inscriptions on the base and shaft of this cross, which formerly stood in the market-square of the town. This truly interesting remnant of antiquity, the finest of the kind in Ireland, is composed of sandstone, and when in a perfect state measured 13 feet 8 inches; the pedestal being 5 feet 3 inches in breadth, and 3 feet 8 inches in height; and the shaft, including the head, 10 feet in length. The antiquity of this cathedral, and the grandeur of the modern Roman Catholic cathedral, alike command the attention of the intelligent visitor. The palace of the Right Honourable and Right Rev. Lord Plunket, the Lord Bishop of Tuam, is situated immediately in front of St. Jarlath's College, and the palace of his Grace the Archbishop. It is a fine square building of four stories in height, with a neat porch, surmounted by a mitre in the front. The centre of the mansion projects slightly, with three windows in each story; the flanking sides having two in a like position. The demesne is of considerable extent, being nearly a mile in circuit, and is embellished with trees, which, although they are not of large growth, are vigorous and highly ornamental. The river Corra flows in an ample sweep through the grounds, and adds a grace and charm to the several beauteous objects by which they are bedecked and environed. The greatest care is bestowed upon the pleasure-grounds and gardens, while the demesne is encircled by a spacious walk, the sides of which are richly planted, and fringed with shrubs and beauteous flowers. My visit was made in the month of June, when, as I was informed, the intervening space between the demesne wall and the rapidly-flowing river was being mowed for the seventh time during the season. Some fine sheep were grazing on the rich pasture which the centre of the lawn afforded.

Leaving Galway for Clifden, a distance of about forty miles, the tourist's attention becomes directed to Dangan, which is the commencement of the great Martin property, and was the occasional residence of the proprietor of that estate. The magnificent seat of Sir Thomas E. Blake, called Menlough Castle, is situated in the same vicinity, and on the border of Lough Corrib, which lake is of considerable extent, covering a surface of 30,000 acres, and presenting the appearance of a capacious bay; there are several islands to be seen in this part of it. Proceeding by this route, the tourist will

notice the village of Moycullen, which, with its spacious Roman Catholic church and the neat residence of the parish priest, has a comfortable appearance. The late Lord Campbell had, previously to this time, purchased property in this neighbourhood, and was considered a good landlord. About eight miles from Galway is situated Knockbane, the property and beautiful residence of Anthony O'Flaherty, Esq., then M.P. for the town of Galway. The demesne is extensive, and richly wooded, and the farming in the vicinity of a very superior description. There is a National school nearly opposite the entrance to the mansion. Ross, the magnificent and beautiful seat of Robert Martin, Esq., next arrests the attention, and commands the admiration of the tourist by its elegant mansion, extensive lawns, and rich plantations. Its finely dotted and verdant meadows are intersected by several arteries of the Ross Lake. Passing onwards, I noticed on the margin of the main lake the ruin of a fine old castle, called Ochnanure. This castle was one of the strongholds of the sept of the O'Flahertys, of whom tradition states, that they were wont to entrap and destroy some of the members or followers of the tribes hostile to their interests by means of a curiously contrived machine, prepared expressly for that purpose. A similar mode of capturing salmon in the vicinity of the castle was resorted to by them, whereby, on the entrance of the fish into a box or trap, its evolutions brought it into contact with a wire, which communicated with a bell, that, when touched by the fish, caused the bell to ring, upon which signal the salmon was immediately taken and removed by the person in care of the machine. Ross Lake may be considered a curiosity, inasmuch as, although copiously supplied by the neighbouring rivulets and mountain streams, and having no visible outlet, still it never either rises or falls except in harmony with the great Lough Corrib, which is a mile distant from it. It therefore seems but reasonable to suppose that this apparent phenomenon is caused by a subterranean communication with the great lake. Ross Lake is said to abound in every description of fish peculiar to Lough Corrib, with the exception of salmon, from which it may be inferred that the latter fish will not travel by subterranean passages. Arriving at the churchyard of Oughterard, in the centre of which stands the ruin of a small church, a magnificent view of the lake, interspersed with islands, that appear in richness and variety by the foliage of the trees which grow upon them, can be obtained. The lake in this part is of great extent, being ten miles in breadth.

The town of Oughterard is a neat and comfortable small place, with many features worthy of the tourist's notice. The Protestant church, formerly a plain structure, with a neat western tower, has had recent additions made to it, which differ in their style and construction from the original building. The Catholic church, a commodious house of worship, displays its handsome front to the east, and is entered beneath a fine Gothic arch, above which appears an appropriate window. It is

flanked on the north and south by a light square tower, while a characteristic tower and steeple, furnished with a good bell, grace and adorn its western end. The interior is light and lofty, with a very richly ornamented altar in the centre, and two side altars, which stand at right angles with the central one, a style somewhat unusual. The residence of the parish priest is nicely and even romantically situated west of the church, and immediately south of the clear and rapid river Feogh, which flows beside it. There is an excellent hotel and posting establishment in the town. The poor-house in this vicinity is a new and light building, of an agreeable exterior, in which at this time a considerable decrease of the paupers had taken place, the number being only 200, whereas in the previous summer it amounted to more than three times that number. Pleasing and picturesque cascades are formed by a succession of falls on the rocky bed of the river, which is fed by the neighbouring lakes; these are to be seen beyond the neat latticed bridge that spans the river immediately west of the town. Near this place a linen-weaving factory has been lately established, in which a number of persons find employment. About half a mile from the town lead mines are being successfully worked, which yield ore of a superior quality. Copper mines have also been opened in this neighbourhood, while a fine description of black marble has been raised here in considerable quantities for several years, and exported to London and other places.

Leaving Oughterard, the tourist passes through the centre of an extensive district, environed with rocky elevations, and plentifully abounding in turf, and soon after enters the country called Connemara, a mountainous region, thinly inhabited, and in some places partially desolate, but supposed by many to be capable of being drained and prepared for cultivation, at a comparatively reasonable expense. Numerous lakes spread themselves over portions of this district, which are studded and diversified with small islands, and generally well stocked with fish, which causes them to be periodically visited by the angler. The islands in the lake of Shendela are very beautiful, being covered with natural wood, which gives them a rich and luxuriant appearance. In passing along this line of road, I noticed in one of the lakes the remarkable ruin called Cushlawnakirca, or the Hen's Castle, which stands on a small island, at the head of the lake, barely sufficient in size to form its base. Arriving at a place called the Half-way House, the traveller will perceive that the waters of the lakes lying east and west of this point flow in opposite directions, those on the east running downwards to Oughterard, while those on the west flow towards the upper or western point, in the direction of Clifden. At the place called Butler's Lodge on this line, the roads branch off at right angles, one of them, running in a northerly direction, leads to Maam, where admirable views of Lough Corrib, and the grand mountain scenery appertaining to it, may be obtained. On the south, running towards the Atlantic, may be seen

the mountains of Inver, so celebrated in days gone by for the superiority of their home-made whisky.

The tourist who has formerly travelled by this line of road, when he arrives at the island of Shendela, will naturally look out for Flinn's Hotel, so famed for the excellence of its viands, and the urbanity of its proprietor; but at present he will look for it in vain. The change in the proprietors of the estate, we have reason to believe, superinduced a change of tenancy, for the hospitable caterer for his comfort and convenience is no longer to be found, at least in this locality; hence he must restrain his desire for the good things of this world until he arrives at the new and unique hotel called the Recess, which is kept by Mr. Taggert, and which is situated on the property of Alderman Andrews, of Dublin. On leaving the Recess, the tourist obtains a view of a very fine lake called Glendalough, equal in extent to its renowned namesake in the county of Wicklow, but very different in its general characteristics. It is not so closely environed with lofty mountains as the sanctified retreat of the far-famed St. Kevin; but, on the other hand, it partakes of advantages which even that favoured and classical locality can scarcely exceed. These are to be found in the beautiful castellated mansion of Mr. Studzer, and the charming and varied scenery of his magnificent demesne. This lake is about two miles in length and one in breadth, with bold and lofty mountains appearing in the distance, which considerably enhance its beautiful and picturesque appearance. To the right in an opposite direction lie the charming lakes of Loughina and Derryclare, remarkable for the quantity and quality of their fish, especially trout and salmon. West of these lakes extend the chain of mountains called the Twelve Pins of Benabola. The traveller who for the first time beholds these sublime and remarkable objects, would fain pause to indulge his feelings of surprise and admiration of the wild and varied grandeur which they present.

The tourist next arrives at the exceedingly beautiful and extensive lake of Ballinahinch, which immediately adjoins the grand demesne and former residence of the Martins, the proprietors of the immense tracts comprised within the patrimonial estate of that once powerful but now extinct family. This lake, studded with beautifully wooded islands, and graced in the centre by a strong castle and keep, is about three miles in length, and about half that extent in breadth. The mansion can be seen from the high road, rising in the distance above the surrounding foliage, and presenting an appearance of comfort and grandeur; while the extensive offices and farm-yard are situated nearly opposite the castle, that stands in the centre of the lake, and form a striking and agreeable feature. The whole of the beautiful lakes on this side may be considered as a continuation of that of Ballinahinch, and are, generally speaking, like it, interspersed and diversified with islands, which are clothed with every variety of tree and shrub. On these islands the crane, in solitude and security,

finds a resting-place for himself and a home for the propagation of his kind in the proper season. It may seem somewhat extraordinary that these islands, which are too small for even man's cupidity to tempt him to endeavour to turn them to account, should be so generally covered with trees and shrubs. This, however, may be accounted for by the circumstance of their feathered tenants having from time to time, in their migrations, conveyed thither the seeds from which they have sprung, as the adjacent country was, at one time, entirely covered with woods.

I felt a peculiar and melancholy interest in this place, and while here indulged in meditations on the uncertainty and insecurity of terrestrial advantages. A strong and salutary lesson may be deduced from a consideration of the career of the late owners of this vast estate. The grandfather of its last inheritor was amongst the largest proprietors, if not the very largest, in this part of Ireland, and so continued to the period of his decease; but unfortunately for his son, the last male representative of his fortune and his name, his boundless extravagance, or, if you will, his munificence, so encumbered his property, that he, the then proprietor, found it impossible to disencumber it, and the consequence was that he too died, still leaving it in jeopardy. It then descended to the granddaughter of the one, and the daughter of the other, and subsequent events go to prove that she was less able to free it from its heavy liabilities than either of her predecessors. It was mortgaged to the Law Life Assurance Company for a very large sum indeed, and the alteration of the times, consequent upon repeated years of famine, rendered it impossible for the heiress to raise the necessary sums required for the payment of the interest. Her grateful and devoted tenants would gladly have made every effort possible to enable her to meet the demands of the mortgagees, but repeated blight and loss of crops rendered them unable to assist her. Under these adverse circumstances the property was put up for sale, and was knocked down to the mortgagees for a sum not exceeding the amount due to them. Thus was the tender and delicate child, the inheritor of these lordly domains, by the force of the unforeseen and depressed value of property, driven from the home of her childhood and her heart, to become a wanderer in another and a distant land, almost alone and unfriended. Here let me correct myself; she was not alone nor unfriended, for she was accompanied by the husband of her affections and her choice. Soon after her father's decease, with a disinterestedness which none can so well feel or prove as a true and virtuous woman, she bestowed her heart and hand upon a young and honourable man, who, perhaps, had little, save his honourable and amiable qualities, to recommend him. In thus following the fine impulses of her noble feminine nature, she made what the world calls a great sacrifice, as her hand was sought for by the highest and the wealthiest in the land, and had she been swayed by sordid

considerations, her broad lands would have been redeemed by her marriage with such a husband; Providence, however, and her own true heart willed it otherwise. Thus united to a husband who, although he had the will, had not the power of enabling her to stem the torrent of misfortune then about to burst upon her, she, with her property heavily encumbered, and her poor but honest tenantry deprived, by the visitation of an All-wise Providence, from meeting their engagements, was unable to save her magnificent fortune from the fate which awaited too many properties in our poor country; and hence the owner of 200,000 acres, who might be called a princess in her own country, was left without a rood of land, and was little better than a pauper in the proud halls of her ancestors. Soon after this time, she and her husband bade adieu to their native land, and to their hopes as regarded it, and emigrated to America. Her trials and sufferings in thus being obliged to leave the home of her childhood, and her deep regret in abandoning for ever scenes so endeared to her heart,—including her much-loved native mountains, to the summits of which she was wont to ride on her sure-footed pony, and from which all that her vision fell upon she could call her own,—so wrought upon her sensitive nature, that on her outward passage, she gave birth to a still-born child; and the last scion of the elder branch of the house of Martin, thus found a premature birth and an ocean grave. Such a complication of misfortunes so affected her health and spirits, that soon after she landed in America she sank, like the evening sun, whose fading rays she had so often marked upon her native hills, into the peaceful quietude of death, in the far, far West. Peace to thy ashes, gentle lady! he who pens these few commiserative lines, had he the power, has certainly the inclination, to record his sympathy with thy early sorrows, in terms not unworthy of thy lineage and thy virtues.

While in this part of the country, I was greatly struck with the dress of the women in general, which consists of a fabric of their own manufacture. It is composed of wool carded and spun by themselves, and dyed with indigo, copperas, and madder, which give it a deep red colour; they pay for the weaving twopence per yard. Thus prepared and formed into a gown, it constitutes a comfortable, as well as a handsome dress; its rich colour contrasting finely with the verdure of the corn and potato fields, in which, at this season of the year, the females are so generally employed in removing weeds. When walking or proceeding to any considerable distance from home, a short snow-white woollen vesture is sometimes worn over the red garment, which fits closely round the neck, and reaches to a short distance below the knee. Thus attired, with, in some instances, a party-coloured kerchief binding the head, they appear to great advantage. Although I may to some extent subject myself to the charge of being ungallant, I cannot help saying that the women of Connemara have a decided advantage over those in the

neighbourhood of Galway; of course I speak only of those in the rural districts. The females of Connemara are, generally speaking, well favoured, and many of them really handsome. They labour under one great disadvantage, however, in the eyes of such as are not familiar with their usages, which is that of being destitute of shoes, or any covering whatever for their feet. In fact, among the humbler class of females in this part of Ireland, bare feet would seem to form the rule, and the use of shoes the exception. It is more or less humiliating to an Irishman to be obliged to make this statement, but truth requires that it should be told. Besides, the suppression of such a fact in order to shield the national pride, could not have the desired effect, as the numerous tourists, the majority of whom are English, who annually visit this district, become cognizant of the prevalency of the custom.

Leaving Ballinahinch, the tourist will soon arrive at the western boundary of the late Martin property, and enters upon what was once the estate of the eminent family of D'Arcy, which, like the former, has also exchanged owners, it having been sold in lots some years since, under the Encumbered Estates Court, when Thomas Ayre, Esq., became the purchaser of a considerable portion of it, including the town of Clifden.

The tourist who rides along the line of road from Galway to Clifden, must be forcibly struck with the large tracts of bogland over which it passes; and therefore can scarcely feel surprise when he becomes informed that, until within a comparatively short period of time it was almost inaccessible. Owing, however, to the engineering skill of the late lamented and scientific Mr. Nimmo, and the enterprise and public spirit of Charles Bianconi, Esq., it is now available for the man of business or pleasure. This line of country appears to be but thinly inhabited, as very few houses meet the view; one would therefore be inclined to think the district even more destitute of inhabitants than it is in reality. Should the tourist be desirous of making himself acquainted with the manners and peculiarities of the people of Connemara, which signifies the "bays of the sea," he should keep along the margin of the sea-shore, as their piscatory pursuits render it imperative on them to dwell in its vicinity; and therefore but few of the inhabitants are to be found more remote from it than about some two or three miles. The merit of originally opening this line of country by anything approaching to convenient roads, belongs to the late John O'Neil, Esq., a descendant of the old MacGeoghegan family, then of Bunowen Castle, and father of John Augustus O'Neil, Esq.

Bunowen Castle, which property has also been sold under the Encumbered Estates Court, is situated about seven miles south-west of Clifden. It is an extensive castellated building, and possesses antique features worthy of the attention of the tourist. From the lofty hill of Doon, which immediately adjoins it, can be obtained one of the

most sublime and extensive prospects in this part of Ireland. The Castle is at present occupied by its owner and purchaser, Valentine Blake, Esq.

The small town of Roundstone, situated about ten miles south of Clifden, and handsomely seated on the capacious bay of that name, was erected by the late Mr. Nimmo, on the great Martin estate. There are some neat and convenient buildings here, consisting of the Protestant church, the Catholic church, a Presbyterian place of worship; and a very nice house belonging to a community of lay monks, with a post-office, and a very good hotel, in which the tourist will find ample accommodation. About three miles on the road leading from this small town to Ballinahinch, there is a neat and comfortable hotel, recently erected by John Robertson, Esq., the proprietor of the salmon fishery at this place; this was considered a desideratum by those engaged in the business of the fishery. Mr. Robertson is the agent of the Law Life Assurance Company, who were the purchasers of the great Martin estate; he resides in Ballinahinch Castle. Anglers who may be desirous to fish the extensive lakes on this property, are permitted to indulge their wishes upon paying a sum of ten shillings and sixpence per day to Mr. Robertson; but they are also expected to give up to caretakers appointed by him all the fish captured by them. This is considered a very stringent regulation by those who are partial to these sports; some time since, the angler was permitted to retain one of the fish taken by himself each day.

The town of Clifden is situated on an eminence above the creek or estuary, extending from the bay of Ardbear. At the head of the estuary is a steep ravine, into which the river Owenglen discharges itself; and immediately south-east of the town, flowing beneath two plain bridges, forms in its descent magnificent cascades. Here the rapid and powerful stream, dashing over and between rising crags of iron rock, and tumbling into the deep basin formed in its projecting side, swells and boils in turgid fury, and, again bounding over the obstructing chain of rocks, leaps into the final abyss, and rushes foaming towards the sea. Immediately west of the town, rocks rising in amphitheatrical form to a great height assume the appearance of a crescent, and in their semicircular bosom display a scene of a peculiarly rich and interesting character. Here a handsome villa, surrounded by fine verdant meadows, interspersed with young and ornamental trees, has been converted into a school by the Missionary Society. On the summit of one of the towering rocks appears a small turreted structure, which was intended as a monument to Mr. D'Arcy, the former owner of the town of Clifden and other extensive property in the neighbourhood. The town consists of a few good streets, containing some neat and well-built houses. The Protestant church, a handsome edifice, stands upon the side of an elevation, and together with an adjoining school appears an inte-

resting feature. The Catholic church, a spacious cruciform structure, apparently of long standing, is nicely situated in the eastern extremity of the town; and at a short distance from it a nunnery and chapel for the devoted Sisters of Mercy were at this time being built. The establishment of such an institution was regarded as a great blessing by the generality of the inhabitants. The parish priest, the Rev. Patrick McManus, and his two curates, reside about half a mile from the town, in a neat cottage which adjoins the monastery, wherein are located a community of lay brothers; the school-house of the brotherhood, a plain new structure, is situated at a short distance from the monastery. This very interesting establishment is situated on the margin of a beautiful lake, into which the salt water is said to find access; trout and salmon are taken in great plenty in this lake. The union workhouse is situated about half a mile east of the town, and being plastered, dashed, and whitewashed, presents a nice appearance; here, also, a considerable diminution of the inmates had taken place. The Court House and bridewell are conveniently situated, and well suited to the size of the town; the police barrack is a commodious edifice, being one of the largest houses in Clifden. There is a large school in connection with the National Board of Education in the town.

Other schools besides that already mentioned have been established in this neighbourhood by the Missionary Society. The advantages which might be expected to result from the foundation of educational establishments, are, in a great measure neutralised by the heart-burnings superinduced by the system upon which these newly-founded schools are conducted. The children of Roman Catholic parents are anxiously sought for, and induced by every species of encouragement to attend them; this, as may be supposed, is painfully witnessed by their relations, by their clergy, and by those who profess that creed; and although a little book-learning may be disseminated among them, it is more than counterbalanced by the irritation and uncharitableness it engenders. I think it highly creditable to every body of professing Christians to make use of every legitimate means in their power, such as good example, and instruction delivered within their respective places of worship, to convert others to their religious tenets; but I more than question the utility of doing so by insidious and indirect methods, as by these means they are sure to make hypocrites, but very rarely, in my opinion, good Christians. There are two excellent hotels in the town.

Connemara abounds in marble quarries of various descriptions. I saw one block of the kind called serpentine, which was raised in the neighbourhood of Ballinahinch, that weighed between five and six tons. The wheels of the waggon on which it was being conveyed to the concerns of Mr. Costello, of Galway, who spiritedly works quarries in this direction, sank in a part of the road, and had to be raised, and afterwards placed on planks, and thus drawn over a great

portion of the line, which, passing over bogland, yields beneath the pressure of so great a weight.

At the distance of about an English mile west of the town stands Clifden Castle, beautifully situated, and commanding an extensive view of the Atlantic. Its verdant lawns, and the drapery of its overhanging woods, form a delightful contrast to the wild and rugged scenery by which it is surrounded. The road along the sea-shore leading from the town to the castle may be called the mall or promenade of Clifden. On the side of this road, and about midway to the castle, is situated the charming lodge called Glen Erin, which, with its diversity of rock, wood, and water, is a really beautiful residence. On the north side, near the entrance to Ardbear Bay, otherwise Clifden Harbour, to which vessels of large tonnage have free access, are several islands, some of the most important of which are Omey Island, High Island, and Friar's Island. These contain many objects worthy of the tourist's attention. On High Island, which comprises about fifty acres, and is quite inaccessible except in fine weather, are the remains of ancient hermitages or caves of great antiquity and singular construction. One of them is of square form and very limited dimensions, 5 feet in height, the whole of which, including the roof, is composed of stone; another, 40 feet long, and but 4 feet wide, is also composed of stone. Some rude stone crosses are to be seen on that part of the island supposed to have been a burial-ground.

Leaving Clifden for Westport, the first object which attracts the notice of the tourist is the nice little village of Streamstown, situated on a creek of the sea, from which it derives its name. This salt-water stream, which is about three miles in length, and generally about a pistol-shot in width, runs with intense rapidity. Proceeding onwards, an elevation is soon attained, from which can be had a view of the Atlantic, with the small islands already referred to. Arriving at Ballinakill, another of the fine bays for which Connemara is so celebrated falls under observation, and commands the marked attention of the traveller. It is bounded on the west by the Renville Mountain, and on the north and east by a group of lofty mountains, comprising those familiarly called the Diamond, the Eagle, and the General Thompson Mountain. Abundance of fish are taken in this bay. There is a small Catholic church on its western side; and on the eastern, a handsome Protestant church, with a pinnacled and embattled tower, each pinnacle surmounted by a cupola and an ornamental ball. The residence of the clergyman, a neat house in the Elizabethan style, stands north of the church, and immediately in front of it a rapid mountain torrent, which rushes beneath a bridge of a single arch, produces a splendid waterfall. In the nice harbour formed by an arm of the bay seals are very plentiful, and are frequently shot from the quay, which projects some distance from the shore on the eastern side. These animals are often to be seen basking in the sun on a small rock

in the centre of the harbour, and in that situation afford an advantage to the sportsman. The finest shooting, perhaps, in Ireland can be obtained on the Diamond and the adjoining mountains.

The tourist having arrived at Letterfrack, about eight miles from Clifden, is called on to notice objects of a peculiarly interesting character, consisting of a handsome residence, surrounded by neat and ornamental pleasure grounds, and at a short distance from it, on the side of the road, an extensive warehouse, in which are vended soft goods, groceries, and other articles. The gentlemen in the occupation of these houses are Englishmen, natives of Lancashire, and members of the Society of Friends or Quakers. Mr. Ellis is the owner, and, indeed, the builder of the first beautiful residence, having reclaimed the ground upon which it and the adjoining plantations stand, from what was, not long since, a comparatively barren tract. Under the spirit and enterprise of this practical reformer, this remote and hitherto almost unknown spot has risen into a nice village, with a court-house, in which are held petty sessions; a dispensary, a post-office, and a school. This school he established for the education of the children of the district, without religious distinction, and as the pupils are not in any manner tampered with, it is numerously attended. The residence of the schoolmaster, a neat and fanciful cottage, immediately adjoins the school-house. This excellent gentleman has not grown tired of improving, as upon the day that I passed I saw him overlooking masons, who were engaged upon a new building in the vicinity of his residence. It would be well if some of our countrymen, who are every day proceeding to distant regions, would pay a visit to this place, and see what capital, well directed, is capable of performing at home. Mr. Evans, a young man, is the proprietor of the shop and warehouse at this place, where every imaginable article for the public use can be obtained, with the exception of spirituous liquors and tobacco. He accommodates the people of the district by taking, in exchange for his merchandise, articles of home manufacture and agricultural produce. A traveller from the firm of Ferriers, in Dublin, had called on the proprietor on the day upon which I paid my visit, which proves that he must be doing a good business, when commercial men go thus far to visit him.

Leaving this interesting place, and entering the mountain defile that winds along the margin of the Kylemore river and the beautiful lake which bears that name, the tourist will presently arrive at the residence of Mr. Eastwood, which, together with its handsome gate-lodge, is situated on an open plain, originally a morass or bog, and entirely destitute of the advantages which trees and plantations afford. Advancing through this defile, the Diamond Mountain, rising precipitous and barren, presents a remarkably wild and desolate appearance; while, stretching to the eastward, on the same side, appear portions of the mountain range designated the Pins of Benabola. Still on the same side, stretches the green and comparatively

genial Kylemore Mountain. On the opposite or western side Eagle Mountain, in magnificence and sublimity, displays its giant form; its bold protuberances and dark ravines being partially shaded by a clothing of natural timber. Several waterfalls are to be seen along this line, the first of them being formed by the Kylemore river, a rapid stream, as it rushes beneath a bridge of a single arch, near the entrance to the defile before mentioned. Others appear on the side of the Eagle Mountain, their white and curving lines then showing to the greatest advantage, as it had rained on the previous day and night. Archdeacon Wilberforce, brother to the Bishop of Oxford, is the owner of the greater portion of the Eagle Mountain, having purchased it, together with other property, from Mr. Blake. Passing along the base of this mountain, which extends for a distance of more than two miles in a direct line, several fanciful objects are pointed out, such as the Smoothing Iron, a perpendicular rock of triangular shape; the Deer's Leap, so called from a bound of that animal from an overhanging table-rock into Kylemore Lake, while followed by a pack of hounds; and the Robber's Cave, also called Johnny Gibbons' Cave. Tradition states that this cavern, which is situated at a considerable height in the side of the mountain, was, at one time, the abode or lurking-place of a desperate character, who supported himself by robbery, laying his contributions principally on the rich, and being ostentatiously generous to the poor. His daring and reckless courage, added to his open-handed generosity, while it caused him to be dreaded by the gentry of the country, excited the admiration and the sympathy of the humbler classes, who, according to the stories which are still told regarding him, were nothing loath to shield him from the merited consequences of his misdeeds. The person who told me this story of the cave, could not undertake to say whether the hero of his tale fled the country or became amenable to the laws at home. Johnny Gibbons, however, was a person of more recent notoriety, having been, as we are told, a rebel and an outlaw, who had taken refuge in this cave, where for a considerable length of time he succeeded in eluding the vigilance of his pursuers, but was ultimately hunted down, by the Honourable Denis Browne, and hanged at Castlebar. In former days, and in such a remote locality, a desperate man might have found shelter and impunity for even a considerable length of time, but such days are passed away, as now our active constabulary, like the gendarmes of France, would very soon be on the culprit's trail.

Soon after passing this cave, the tourist becomes struck with a remarkably fine cascade on the Eagle Mountain, which, after a succession of falls, makes its final bound, a distance of some 20 feet, into a basin, on the side of which grow fine specimens of the oak, the ash, and the beauteous holly tree. This waterfall, in its descent down the side of the mountain, divides the property of the Venerable Archdeacon Wilberforce from that of Trinity College, Dublin, to which

institution the property on which the Rev. Mr. Duncan has built his hotel belongs. This spacious and modern hotel is favourably situated on the margin of the great Kylemore Lake, which is about twelve miles from Clifden, and although not quite so great a desideratum as the hospitable convent of the good monks of the grand Mount St. Bernard, is still of the utmost value and importance to the tourist who, in order to gratify his admiration of wild grandeur, ventures into the heart of Connemara; or to the sportsman who is desirous of enjoying the delights which its lofty mountains and capacious lakes afford. The lake of Kylemore, which is of considerable extent, abounds in fish, and is much resorted to in the season by first-class sportsmen, who come from the most distant parts of the empire to indulge their predilection for these exciting and fascinating pursuits. Boats are kept at the hotel for the convenience of such visitors, but, like Killarney, sail-boats dare not be used upon it, as the squalls are equally violent, and, as far as I am capable of forming a judgment, much more frequent. I passed this place on the 24th of June, and was obliged to remain for a much longer time than I intended owing to the storm and heavy rain, which, in such a situation, partook of all the severity of mid-winter.

Leaving this place, I soon obtained a view of the Delphi Mountain, a bold and striking feature, whose towering peak was then enshrouded in the gathering mist. About a mile and a half from the Kylemore Hotel, after crossing a river, we entered Joyces' Country, and, having reached an elevated part of the road, obtained a commanding view of the fine Killery Bay, which is romantically situated between the great Muilrea Mountain on the one side, which is one of the highest mountains in the west of Ireland, being about 2,730 feet above the level of the sea, and the chain of the Joyce country mountains on the other. This capacious bay runs for a distance of about eleven miles between these hills, being over half a mile in breadth, and sufficiently deep throughout the greater part of its length for vessels of the largest size to ride in safety.

The characteristic features of the Killery mountains are wildness and sublimity, their dark and rugged forms stretching for miles in the distance. Delphi, the beautiful residence of the Honourable John Plunket, so called from its contiguity to the fine mountain of that name, is situated on the opposite side of the bay, and is well deserving of a visit. Placed between two lofty hills, and on the margin of the beautiful lake, that abounds in trout and salmon, it possesses advantages which constitute it a really charming retreat. The beauties of Kylemore and the magnificent Killeries rival even Killarney itself; for what they want in richness of wood, is abundantly supplied in their wild and savage grandeur. While proceeding along the eastern bank of the Killery Bay for a distance of about three miles, we were overtaken by another of the showers so frequent in mountain regions, which, being accompanied with a high wind, rendered it expedient to

seek a resting place. With this object in view, the driver pushed on for Leenane, where there is an excellent hotel, kept by Mr. King. The appearance of the hostess of this welcome concern carried with it the fullest assurance of comfort and hospitality, which was realised in the well-dressed dinner that, in an incredibly short space of time, was served up. The tact and despatch with which the dinner was prepared induced me to inquire if the proprietor had been long in that line of business, when, to my agreeable surprise, I found that the hostess, in whose fine ingenuous countenance I at once discerned such unmistakable traces of unsophisticated kindness, was the daughter of Mr. Flinn, the former proprietor of the Half-way House Hotel, near the lake of Shendela, already mentioned, and who, a short time before their removal from the old establishment, was married to Mr. King. I conversed with her concerning her former homestead, and heard, not without regret, that her husband and herself consider they were harshly treated by the agent of the present owners of the Martin estate, upon a part of which their house and farm were situated. She stated that, from their attachment to the place wherein their family so long carried on business, they offered more than the value of the farm; but their liberal offer was rejected, and, like their poor mistress, they were obliged to seek another home. Fortunately for them, the savings of years of industry and care enabled them to become the purchasers of the interest in the premises on which they at present reside, where, I hope, their honest endeavours will be rewarded by the success they deserve. The situation of this hotel causes it to be visited by all who are attracted to this part of Connemara and Joyces' Country, as it stands at the head of the bay which divides the counties of Galway and Mayo, and commands fine views, including the grand Killeries on the Mayo side, and the equally bold ranges which rise in towering magnitude and sublimity on the Galway side. Salmon, cod, ling, bream, herrings, and other kinds of fish, are taken in this bay.

Ascending from Leenane, and proceeding towards Westport, new and varied mountain scenery strikes upon the view. The country on this side of Westport is of a very poor description, abounding plentifully in rocks and loose stones. Consulting the ancient chronicles and annals of the country, we find it stated, that the whole of Connaught, at the commencement of the fourth century, was in the possession of the people called the Firdomnians, a branch of the Firbolgs, who, up to that time, had held it under the Milesians. The remote situation of Mayo, it is supposed, prevented it from being much noticed in the annals of the different revolutions which occurred from time to time. Shortly after the English invasion, however, we are informed that the bold and enterprising De Courcy entered the province; but it does not appear that he penetrated so far westward as Mayo. In fact, he was prevented from doing so by Donald O'Brien, King of Limerick. After the death of Roderic O'Connor,

the last of the independent monarchs of Ireland, who died in the monastery of Cong, on the borders of this county, in the year 1198, little mention appears to have been made of Mayo until the assassination of William de Burgo, the third earl of Ulster, to whose ancestor, Hubert de Burgo, the greater part of the province had been granted by King John. In the eleventh year of the reign of Elizabeth, the whole of this province, which had hitherto been divided into the two counties of Connaught and Roscommon, was made shire ground, and the boundaries and subdivisions of this portion of it were defined, at which time it took the name it bears at present, from the village and monastery of Maio, situated on the river which falls into Lough Carra. This village, still called Mayo, was anciently a place of great note on account of its university, in which, according to tradition, Alfred the Great was educated. In the year 665, as we are informed, St. Colman, having resigned the Benedictine's cell of Lindisfarn, in Northumberland, returned to Ireland, and founded an abbey here, in which he placed some English monks who came over with him. St. Gerald, and afterwards St. Adamnan, succeeded him in the government of the establishment, of which they were also abbots. St. Segretia, the sister of St. Gerald, presided over a nunnery which had been established here. The abbey was destroyed by lightning in the year 778, and burned by the Danes in 818, and also in 908; in 1204 it was plundered by William de Burgo. On the dissolution of religious houses, its possessions were granted to the corporation of Galway.

The Protestant church of this small place, a plain edifice, of limited dimensions, was built in 1811, at an expense of £550, which was a gift from the Board of First Fruits. The Catholic church is situated near the ruins of the ancient abbey, which are of considerable extent, and afford evidence of what it was in its days of undiminished splendour. Here also are the ruins of three ancient castles, which afford attestation of its early importance.

CHAPTER XI.

WESTPORT, CASTLEBAR, BALLINA, AND SLIGO.

WESTPORT, a handsome maritime town, is nicely situated on the side of a gentle elevation, which rises on the south-eastern extremity of Clew Bay. A clear and rapid river flows through it from east to west, which, entering the beautiful demesne of the Marquis of Sligo, beneath a bridge of three arches, runs in a devious and winding course towards the sea, and loses itself in the harbour. This town presents a fresh and pleasing appearance, the houses being for the most part of a new and superior description for a town of its class. As viewed from the centre, it shows a regular line of streets, which branch off at right angles, Bridge Street, running in a northerly direction, leads to the Mall; while High Street, extending to the south, leads to the military barracks, which stand on an eminence, called Barrack Hill, and afford accommodation for two companies of infantry. Mill Street, running to the east, leads to a spacious fair-green, in the vicinity of which is situated the convent of the Sisters of Mercy, that shows a handsome front, composed of a centre and slightly projecting wings. At a short distance from the convent is the school-house of the institution, surmounted by a plain cross. A very beautiful cottage, in the Elizabethan style, built by Mr. Glendenning, is situated in this street. Shop Street, which extends in a westerly direction, leads to an open area, called the Octagon, in the centre of which is a monument, erected to the memory of George Glendenning, Esq., an influential proprietor and magistrate, born in the year 1770, and who died in 1843. This fine testimonial consists of a handsome fluted Doric column, based on a pedestal, which stands on a massive platform of bold masonry. The stately column is surmounted by a well-proportioned full-length figure of him whom it was intended to record; while, on the eight panelled sides of the pedestal are appropriate inscriptions commemorative of his birth and of his death. At the base of the column appear two finely carved allegorical figures representing females, one of them resting on a coiled cable, and the other with a youth at her feet. This finely-wrought memorial of private and public worth, so ornamental to the town, is as honourable to the living as it is to the dead, and speaks largely and unmistakably for the liberality, the intelligence, and good

sense of the people who erected it, who, rising above petty local jealousies, were enabled to recognise in an enterprising resident gentleman, a person worthy of their homage and respect. We know, from the highest authority, how difficult it is for even a prophet to obtain honour in his own country. With this recollection in my mind, I was the more forcibly struck with such an evidence of mutual kindness and good feeling. A small neat market-house stands on the west of the square, with a pediment, containing a town clock, rising above the centre of the front, while the summit of the building is surmounted by a small tower, crowned with a cupola, supporting a ball and weathercock. From the Octagon a wide and regular street leads downwards to the bridge in front of the Marquis of Sligo's demesne. From this bridge to that which crosses the river in the eastern extremity of the town, the river flows between two very handsome streets, one of them called the North and the other the South Mall. The river is fronted on each side by a substantial course of solid masonry, with a parapet, about 4 feet in height, rising as a breastwork. A capacious footway runs along the water-line on each side, and forms an exceedingly agreeable promenade, being shaded for the entire distance by fine overhanging trees, while an ample carriage-way extends between the footway and the opposite line of houses. On the South Mall is situated the Catholic church, which displays its rich front to the north. This church, which is in the Norman-Gothic style of architecture, is entered in the centre of the front by a capacious arch, over which is a beautiful Gothic window; above this window rises a handsome belfry, ornamented with pinnacles, and surmounted by a plain cross. On each extremity of the front the slightly projecting wing is entered by a handsome Gothic door, over which appears a well-proportioned Norman window. The interior of the church is very commodious, and capable of accommodating a large congregation. The aisles are divided from the nave by five Doric columns, between which spring nice elliptic arches. The altar is richly decorated, and some valuable paintings hang above and on each side of it. Above these paintings stands the well-toned organ. All the windows in the lower part of the church are of Gothic character, while those which light the deep gallery, that extends along the aisles and the rear of the nave, are of plain Norman. While in attendance at this church, I enjoyed what to me was a rich as well as a very novel treat, which was that of hearing a sermon, part of which was delivered in English, and part in the Irish language. While dilating in the English tongue, the style and delivery of the preacher were comparatively plain and common-place, but when he adopted the native dialect, his demeanour assumed a totally different character. He then became impassioned, energetic, and, indeed, almost sublime; and as he occasionally rose with his subject, his appearance was that of one under the influence of inspiration. At such moments the effect of his discourse upon his auditory was

really powerful; and at the close of each period, their stifled but still audible murmurs proclaimed how deeply they were moved and affected by it. The people of this district may be considered amongst the most pure and perfect of the Celtic race, for as the English adventurers advanced into the heart of the country, and possessed themselves of its rich and fertile plains, the natives fled before their conquerors, and availed themselves of the safety which was only to be found in the bogs and mountain fastnesses of the west. In their onward movement they might be likened to the Indians or Red men of North America, who fled before the European settlers, and sought safety and refuge in the forests and rocky mountains of the far West. The Irish language is still much spoken amongst them, and is, perhaps, the purest remnant of the Celtic tongue now extant. Some of the most learned commentators on the language, manners, and customs of the Irish people, state that their warm and impassioned temperament, and the idioms of their language, so different from all the languages of Europe, intimate their descent from some of the earliest of the most civilised Oriental nations. The copiousness of their language, especially on subjects connected with the passions, renders it available in the highest degree for the purposes of the orator, and for those who have occasion to address public assemblies, and hence the acknowledged eloquence of the Irishman. An illustrious native of Scotland has drawn a faithful picture of the Irish in their military character, although, it must be confessed, the Scotch are far from entertaining an excessive partiality for the people of this country. This portrait will be found in the following lines of the great Bard of the North, the renowned and still lamented Sir Walter Scott.:—

"Hark! from yon stately ranks what laughter rings,
Mingling wild mirth with war's stern minstrelsy:
His jest while each bold comrade round him flings,
And moves to death with military glee.
Boast, Erin, boast them, tameless, frank, and free:
In kindness warm, and fierce in danger known;
Rough Nature's children, humorous as she!
And he, yon chieftain—strike the proudest tone
Of thy bold harp, green isle, the hero is thine own!"

Such are the terms in which the great northern seer was pleased to speak of and chronicle the characteristics of our light-hearted, gay, and gallant sons, and I have no doubt it has been recognised as a true and faithful picture by every candid and unprejudiced person who may have read it.

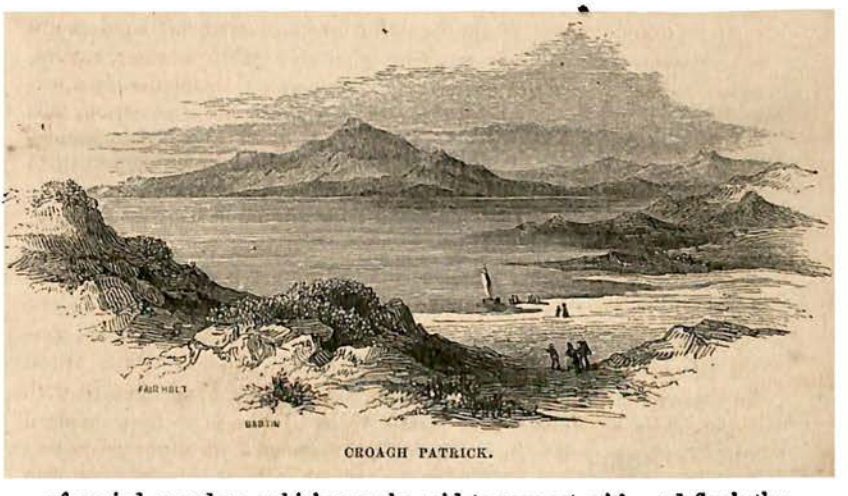
On the opposite or North Mall is situated the extensive and well-appointed hotel kept by Mr. Daly, who is also the proprietor of the excellent hotel at Tuam. This fine establishment shows a handsome front to the south; of about 70 feet in length, with a neat porch in the centre, formed by two columns and two pilasters, with five windows in each of its three stories. It is flanked on the east and west by a

range of nice arches, 80 feet in length, which afford access to warehouses and capacious offices; making the whole of the frontage about 230 feet. The stories that extend above the range of arches on each side are fitted up as commodious bedrooms. Extensive gardens, comprising about two acres, and containing an abundance of vegetables, fruit, and flowers, are situated in the rear of the hotel; thus constituting the entire concern the largest, as it is one of the very best, of the kind to be seen in this part of Ireland. The branch of the Bank of Ireland, the extensive distillery of Mr. Livingstone, and another hotel, with a neat porch surmounted by a richly carved figure of a spread eagle, are likewise situated on the North Mall.

The beautiful demesne of the Marquis of Sligo is entered by a spacious gateway, with an ornamental gate-lodge, immediately west of the Mall. One avenue winds through the extensive demesne, and the other leads to the Protestant church, a plain cruciform building with a low square embattled tower, situated within a cemetery where the ancestral remains of the noble house of Browne are interred. Immediately north of the church and burial-ground, the river, which flows through the demesne and beneath a nice bridge of a single arch, forms a fine cascade, falling over separate reefs of coarse iron rock. In other parts of the beautiful grounds artificial barriers are raised, over which the river, when swollen in rainy weather, rushes, forming cascades at once varied and picturesque. Immediately north of the mansion, the river, after passing over every obstruction, falls into a tranquil lake, beneath a very handsome bridge of four arches. The mansion, a fine quadrangular building, displays its rich front to the east, and is approached by fourteen steps of the fine black marble so common in this part of Ireland. It is entered beneath a pediment, in the tympanum of which appear the richly emblazoned arms of the noble Marquis. Above the parapet, on the north and south angles of this front, stands a finely chiseled spread eagle, and on each of the other angles a splendidly sculptured urn. The rich parapet is continued round the west and north sides of the building, which are in keeping with the principal or eastern front, each being graced with twenty-four windows. The south front displays a more modern appearance than the other sides of the mansion. A slight projection in the centre of this front is supported on each extremity by a rich pilaster; while one of the same character rises on each side of the glass entrance. These pilasters support a pediment, in the centre of which appears the date 1778; and on the apex, a magnificently-sculptured spread eagle. There are five windows in each story of this front. On the north side of the building are situated the domestic offices, forming a very handsome range, the summit of which is decorated with a light iron balustrade, embedded in cut granite. At some distance from the mansion, on this side, are situated the garden, farm-yard, extensive stables, and coach-houses. The greatest liberality is manifested by the noble proprietor, in permitting the inhabitants,

and even strangers, to enter his splendid grounds, which constitute a healthful and agreeable promenade.

The harbour of Westport, situated a mile from the town, can be approached through the demesne of the Marquis of Sligo, and is a fresh and open place, with a line of quay about three-quarters of a mile in length, to which access can be obtained by vessels of 200 tons, without being previously lightened. The bay is entered near the lighthouse, which is about five miles from the quay. Several small islands dot the channel and the bay; there are also some sunken rocks, which are dangerous to navigation. On the north side, near the harbour, are two or three verdant mounts, which present a fresh and pleasing appearance; amongst these, Pigeon Point appears particularly striking. Roman Island, a nicely-wooded feature, affords fine bathing accommodation—a neat lodge being erected on the western point of the island for the use of those who may require it. On entering the bay the stranger becomes struck by the magnificent appearance of the lofty mountain called the Reek of Croagh Patrick, one of the highest mountains in the province, it being 2,666 feet above the level of the sea. It consists of several flatly-rounded hills



CROAGH PATRICK.

of varied grandeur, which may be said to connect with and flank the grand mountain on the east and west. The towering Reek itself rises in the centre of the extensive range in the shape of a beautiful cone, on the summit of which, from its great elevation, the mist is frequently seen to hang. This bold and majestic feature was, previously to the arrival of St. Patrick in this country, called Mount Eagle. But when the great apostle was engaged in carrying out the object of his mission in this part of Ireland, where his spiritual labours are detailed with great minuteness by his biographers, it was called after him. They speak in terms of enthusiasm of his successful efforts in this

district, where he employed his whole time in baptising multitudes, in providing churches for the congregations thus formed, and in ordaining priests from among his disciples to watch over them. His only rest from these various labours and incessant cares was during the Lent season, when retiring alone to the heights of this mountain, he devoted himself for a time to fasting and prayer. From this lofty elevation can be obtained an extensive prospect, including Clew Bay—which is about twelve miles in length and eight in breadth—and the several islands within it.

Westport is situated, ecclesiastically, in the parish of Aughaval, in the barony of Murrisk, and is about nine miles from Castlebar. The Custom House and magnificent stores, many of them half a dozen stories in height, give the stranger an idea of the capabilities of the port and the enterprise of the merchants. Besides the distillery already mentioned, there is a brewery in the town. The Court House and bridewell are situated in the western suburbs; and a school, under the supervision of the rector, is kept in a building called the Lecture Room, at a short distance from the entrance to the Marquis of Sligo's demesne. Besides the school under the superintendence of the Sisters of Mercy, there are others under the National Board of Education, which at this time were under the care and direction of the late Very Reverend Dean Burke, who departed this life in the month of July, 1861, and than whom a purer ecclesiastic or better Irishman never breathed. There are places of worship for Presbyterians and Wesleyan Methodists in the town. I was much gratified to hear from all parties, rich and poor, that a great change for the better had taken place regarding the condition of the great body of the people in this part of Ireland. Labourers were then receiving comparatively liberal wages, the average being from one shilling to one shilling and sixpence per day. The alteration in this respect arose in a great measure from the large numbers that had, within the few previous years, emigrated to America and elsewhere. The market is held on Thursday, and there are four fairs in the year.

The tourist, while here, should leisure permit, may avail himself of the opportunity to visit Clare Island, which is the property of Sir Samuel O'Malley, Bart., a descendant of the ancient sept of that name. Grace O'Malley, better known as Grana Uile, to whom allusion has been already made, and whose romantic character and adventurous exploits in the sixteenth century are still traditionally preserved by the inhabitants of the island, made this place her stronghold, and built a castle for her protection. The remains of an ancient castle are still to be seen here. This most extraordinary woman was the daughter of Owen O'Malley, and the widow of O'Flahertie, both powerful chiefs in this part of Connaught. After the death of O'Flahertie, she married Sir William Burke, called MacWilliam Oughter, who died in 1585. She is described as being high-spirited, bold, and adventurous, and ever foremost in the hour of danger. At

an early age she became attached to a maritime life, and according to some of her biographers, was wont to have the cable of her ship fastened to her bed-post while she slept; she had all her large vessels moored in the bay off the island. Her daring and intrepidity were such as to have made an impression on the heads of the English government in this country, and were acknowledged and dilated on by Sir Henry Sidney, in his correspondence with the English Council in the year 1576. We are informed that a convent was founded on this island so early as the year 1224, for Friars of the Carmelite order, under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin. There is a Roman Catholic chapel on this island, and another on the neighbouring island of Innisturk.

The neighbouring maritime town of Newport, which is about six miles from Westport, is not unworthy of a visit. It was formerly the principal port for the county of Mayo, but of late years the trade in a great measure has been transferred to Westport. Vessels of 200 tons burthen can be moored alongside of the quays. The market is held on Tuesday, and there are four fairs in the year.

On the line leading from Westport to Castlebar the country for some distance presents a tolerably fertile appearance; but it soon exhibits a different aspect, being thin and light, and abounding in a rocky surface interspersed with bog. Several lakes appear on the left as the traveller proceeds in this direction, while fine views are obtained of the interesting Achill mountains, which form a bold and picturesque cluster. In the neighbourhood of Islandeady, one of the lakes so numerous in this part of Ireland becomes open to observation, and, by its clear and unruffled surface, calls up feelings of an agreeable nature in the mind of the tourist. Other feelings, however, soon take possession of his mind as he beholds, in rapid succession, the ruined walls of what but a short time before were comfortable farmhouses; for in this part of the county of Mayo such objects can be reckoned by the score. Whatever the causes may have been which led to such lamentable consequences, it is most certain that great suffering must have been endured by their occupants before they could voluntarily consent to abandon their household gods, and fly from the homes of their childhood to seek a livelihood in another and a distant land. That they should have been obliged to leave them otherwise than voluntarily is a supposition too horrible to contemplate; and yet we know that in these latter years of misery and destitution, such events have frequently taken place. The very appearance of the dark and misshapen walls is, of itself, sufficient to awaken feelings of regret in the mind of the ordinary passer-by. What, then, must have been the feelings of those who were forcibly driven from them? Much of the land in contiguity to these dismantled dwellings not only remained in an uncultivated state, but was even, generally speaking, destitute of stock of any kind.

The tourist, as he enters Castlebar by this line, becomes struck

with the appearance of a fine square building, in the centre of which rises a dome, surmounted by a cupola, and in connection with it a modern tower, also surmounted by a light cupola supporting an ornamental ball. On his nearer approach he discovers, not without some surprise, that this is the county jail, which is entered by a capacious arch in the centre of the tower. This fine castellated building was erected in the year 1834, at a cost of £23,000. The next object that attracts attention is the Protestant church, which is situated at a short distance from the jail, and is a handsome cruciform structure, in the later English style, with fine Gothic windows, and a nicely-wrought pinnacled and embattled tower. Thus favourably impressed, the tourist enters Castlebar, which is situated on the river that has its source in Lough Lanark, at no great distance from the town. It may be said to consist of one long and principal street, with others of inferior note diverging from it. The best and largest houses are those situated at the Green, and in its immediate vicinity. On one side of this extensive area, which constitutes a healthful and agreeable promenade for the inhabitants, is situated the Court House, a handsome and well-arranged building, and on the opposite side a Presbyterian church. The Catholic church, a plain but spacious cruciform edifice, is situated at the other end of the town. There are schools here under the National Board of Education, and a parochial school superintended by the Protestant rector. The County Infirmary is also situated in this town. The military barracks are commodious, and capable of accommodating over 500 men. The union workhouse stands at some distance from the town. A considerable decrease had taken place in the number of its inmates within the last year, which proves that here, as elsewhere, the people were not so deeply plunged in destitution as they were some time previously. From the ancient churchyard situated at the head of Lough Lanark, near the town, can be seen the ruin of an old and formerly fortified building, which stands on the opposite side of the lake. The surrounding scenery is varied and picturesque, embracing within it several fine seats, among the most important of which is the splendid residence of the Earl of Lucan, romantically situated on the brow of a steep eminence which overhangs the river. The demesne is extensive and richly wooded, while the intersecting walks, which form a delightful promenade, are open to the public. The markets, which are held on Saturdays, are numerously attended, and well supplied with the several articles of agricultural produce. There are four fairs in the year. In 1613, James I. granted a charter of incorporation to the town, with privilege to send two members to the Irish parliament. At the period of the Union, the sum of £15,000, awarded as compensation for the disfranchisement of the borough, was paid to Richard, Earl of Lucan. The Linen Hall, erected here many years ago, had at this time a very neglected appearance, from which it may be inferred that the linen trade has declined in this district. The country between

Castlebar and Ballina is of a poor and light description, consisting for miles of mountain and bog land, its wild and barren aspect being varied with occasional patches of corn and potatoes, which appear between the rocks and on the edges of the bogs. The capacious lake called Lough Conn, which presents a sea-like surface of fifteen miles in length and five in breadth, soon breaks upon the traveller's view; its large expanse, studded with numerous islands, and surrounded by low and coarse rocks, investing it with picturesque, but still wild, characteristics. On the southern extremity of this lake, a remarkable structure called the Pontoon Bridge crosses the narrow strait that connects Lough Conn with Lough Cullen. A great singularity is observable in the alternate ebbing and flowing of these lakes. Sometimes the water is seen to rush with great force through the channel which flows beneath Pontoon Bridge into Lough Cullen, while at other times it runs with equal force into Lough Conn, although the lower, or Lough Cullen, lake is the natural outlet for the increased body of water. This becomes the more obvious when the waters of the upper lake are much swollen by floods from the mountains.

Passing this place, the tourist leaves the estate of the Earl of Lucan, and enters that of Mr. Perry; and soon after approaches the property of the Earl of Arran, upon a portion of which an extensive and ornamental plantation appears like an oasis in the surrounding rocky desert. Here the road, sweeping in a prolonged semicircle round the extensive lake, discloses views of mountain, and, in some instances, of island and woodland scenes, of great beauty, that, contrasting finely with the naked and savage ruggedness of the country through which he had just passed, call up mingled feelings of surprise and admiration. The grandeur and variety of the mountain and lake scenery of this district can only be exceeded by those of the interesting Killery region.

Arriving at Ballina the tourist will at once perceive that he has entered a fine stirring town, the shops in general, which are large and nicely fitted up, presenting an appearance of good business. It is finely situated on the river Moy, which, as it flows through it, divides the counties of Mayo and Sligo. This river, which is navigable for vessels drawing about 12 feet of water to within about a mile and a half of the town, is crossed in the south-eastern part of it by a capacious bridge of five elliptic arches, and at the distance of about a quarter of a mile from this bridge, another of similar construction with four arches spans the river in the northern part of the town.

The fine Catholic cathedral stands on the eastern bank of the river, nearly midway between the handsome bridges, and is a magnificent cruciform building, somewhat in the style of the grand Tuam Cathedral, but not so large, nor so elaborately ornamented. This splendid church was commenced by his Grace the Archbishop of Tuam, while Bishop of Killala, and had cost up to this time £17,000. Sir John Benson was the last architect engaged upon it, and its splendid

groinings, and other light and beautiful internal decorations, afford ample evidence of the genius and taste of that distinguished scientific gentleman. He also prepared a plan for finishing the tower, which at this time was no higher than the roof. The grand entrance is in the front of the tower; there is also an entrance in the end of each aisle, as well as in the transept and sacristy. The fine Gothic windows of the aisles and the transepts appear between rich pilasters, which spring from massive buttresses, and end in ornamental pinnacles. Minaret towers rise on each angle of the great tower, and give it a gorgeous appearance. The interior is quite in keeping with its fine external appearance. The splendid marble altar, which came from Rome, is one of the most beautiful that have been imported into this country. It is richly variegated, and stands on a platform in the head of the cross, leaving an ample space in the rear. The light from the grand chancel window, falling on this part of the cathedral, has a very beautiful effect. Immediately adjoining the cathedral are situated the ruins of an extensive church, said to have been founded by St. Olcan, a disciple of St. Patrick. The arch of the principal entrance is in fine preservation, and is considered a model of perfection in its way.

The Protestant church, a neat structure, with handsome Gothic windows, and an ornamental tower and spire, forms a very nice feature. There are also houses of worship in the town for Presbyterians and other Dissenters. The convent of the Sisters of Mercy, in which large numbers of children are educated, is situated in the southern section of the town. The Court House, a small neat building, is likewise in the south part of the town; there are also small military barracks and a fever hospital here. There are two excellent hotels in Ballina, where the tourist can calculate on ample accommodation at a reasonable cost. The river Moy is perhaps one of the best salmon rivers in Ireland, the fishing being estimated at £17,000 under the Poor Law valuation, and is rented at £1,500 a year by the present lessee, which, together with the caretakers' salaries and ordinary working expenses, is considered to amount to £3,000 a year. The fishery had been very productive this season, 2,000 salmon being taken, at the weirs and in the river, on a single day. A few days before I paid my visit the almost incredibly large number of 850 of these fine fish were taken in the river by a single sweep of a net. The environs of Ballina are very beautiful: west of the town may be seen the lofty Nephin Mountain, rising to a height of 2,640 feet above the level of the sea, with a connecting chain of hills extending in a westerly direction towards the island of Achill; while the Moy, in tranquil and graceful majesty, flows beneath richly wooded demesnes, and between verdant and spreading banks, in its progress towards the sea.

Proceeding by the handsome line of road from the town to the quay, the Bunree river, a good trout stream and a tributary of the Moy, flows into that river, beneath a fine stone bridge of seven arches. It affords the requisite power for working extensive mills at a short

distance from its conflux, and forms pleasing cascades in its downward progress over steeply shelving rocks. The residence of the Right Reverend Dr. Feeney, the Roman Catholic bishop of the diocese, is nicely situated near this bridge, on the eastern or Sligo side of the river, and about a statute mile from the town. On the opposite side of the river Moy, on a fine elevation immediately above the placid stream, stands Beleek Castle, the elegant seat of Mr. Howley. The magnificent seat of Colonel Knox Gore is situated on the same side, somewhat farther down the river. That of Colonel Wingfield, uncle to Lord Viscount Powerscourt, is situated on the Sligo side, at a short distance from the harbour. Interesting ruins are to be seen on the lower banks of the river, one about three, and the other about four, miles from the town. This town, originally called Beleek, may be said to owe its origin to O'Hara, Lord Tyrawley, who built the first street; he also obtained for the inhabitants the grant of a weekly fair. The market at present is held on Monday, and there are three fairs in the year.

Proceeding from Ballina to Sligo enlarged views of the Atlantic can be obtained, with the bold and picturesque Donegal mountains, which project considerably into the ocean. Arriving at the comfortable village of Ballysadere, the traveller becomes struck with the splendid waterfall, which is formed by the bold and rapid river that, for a distance of about a furlong, after passing the bridge of seven arches, and working extensive mills, rushes along, and bounding over a succession of slopes, in its final descent becomes united with the waters of the estuary, where vessels of moderate tonnage load and unload their cargoes. The ruin of an ancient abbey appears on a verdant elevation above the bank of the rushing river. A new and handsome Protestant church has lately been erected here; and at some distance from the village is situated the very pretty little Catholic chapel. There are very few ancient ruins along this line of country; this, I am sorry to say, cannot be said as regards modern ruins, the latter being painfully, and indeed startlingly obvious in the county of Mayo, and in this part of the county of Sligo.

Sligo, a good business town, is situated on the banks of the fine river Garogue, which, as it flows downward from Lough Gill in its rapid course to the harbour, divides the town, leaving the larger portion on the southern side. This river is crossed in the eastern part of the town by an extensive bridge of eight arches, called New Bridge, and in its progress in a westerly direction, by a modern substantial structure named Victoria Bridge. The quay is nearly an English mile in length, with an open dock, which, from its soft bottom, affords shelter and safety to boats and small vessels in coarse and wild weather; this must be considered a great advantage, as the harbour and quays are much exposed. Vessels drawing more than 10 or 11 feet of water cannot enter the harbour except at spring tides.

Efforts were being made at this time to improve the port, and a steamer was engaged in dredging the mouth of the entrance.

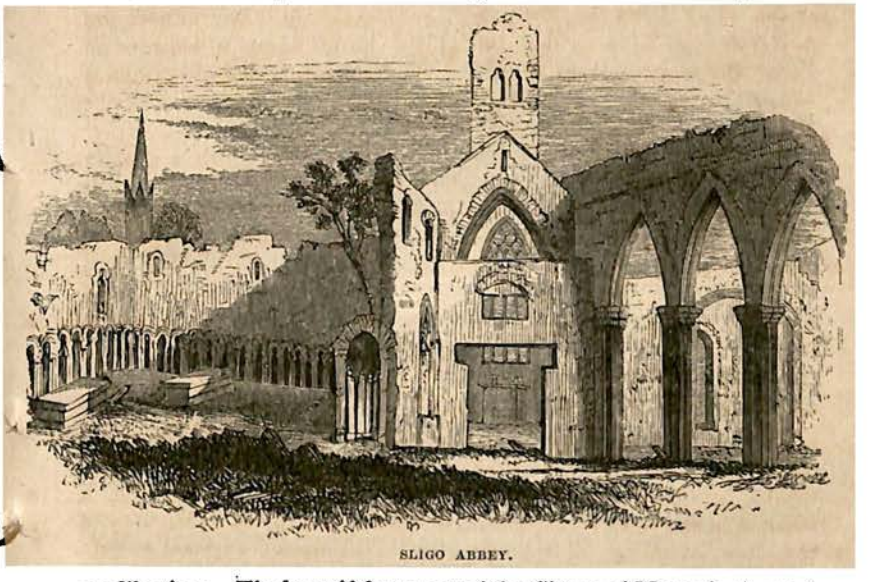
The Protestant church, which is situated on an eminence north of the river, is a remarkably fine structure, with a handsome pinnacled and embattled tower, from which springs a light and elegant spire, rising at the eastern end. The western gable, as well as each angle of the building, is graced by an ornamental pinnacle. There are five Gothic windows on each side of the church, above which runs an enriched embattled parapet. The neat residence of the clergyman is situated on the margin of the river, beneath the south side of the church, which is richly mantled in ivy.

The County Infirmary, a very beautiful building, with a slightly projecting centre and corresponding wings, is based on a gentle elevation at some distance east of the church. North-west of the infirmary, in a fine healthful locality, is situated the Fever Hospital, a fine square building; while immediately opposite the infirmary is a handsome school-house, known by the appellation of the Charter School. About a quarter of a mile north-east of these institutions is the new lunatic asylum, a very beautiful building, with an enriched and highly ornamented projecting centre, the flanking towers of which, surmounted by cupolas, have a gorgeous appearance. Other projections appear in the intermediate spaces between the grand centre and the extremities of the highly-wrought and elaborate front. St. John's Church, an extensive and fine old cruciform building, is situated in the western section of the town, and on the south side of the river; standing as it does within a handsome enclosed burial-ground, it is a venerable and imposing object. The Catholic church, also situated on this side of the river, but in the eastern quarter of the town, is a commodious house of worship, capable of accommodating a large congregation. Schools in connection with the National Board of Education are situated in the vicinity of the church.

The church of the Friars of the Dominican order, a new and beautiful structure in the Gothic style of architecture, is likewise situated on the south side of the river. The western tower, enriched on each angle with buttresses ending in minarets, is a very elaborate and striking feature. The altar, of splendidly carved workmanship, approached by steps of white marble, stands within a nice recess in the eastern end of the church, and immediately in front of the grand window of richly stained glass. This really elegant church reflects much credit on its pious founders, and upon those who contributed to its erection.

The splendid ruin of the ancient Dominican Abbey, probably one of the finest of the kind in Ireland, is situated in the old and popular churchyard of the town, at a short distance from the Roman Catholic parish church, before mentioned. The central tower is not so large as that of the ruin of Dunbrody Abbey in the county of Wexford, nor of some others which I have seen, nor are the arches that support it so

lofty; but the richness and variety of the altars and cloisters, and the splendour of the carvings and groinings, are so strikingly beautiful, as to bear a comparison with most things of the kind to be seen in Ireland. In this truly interesting remnant of other days, so replete with magnificence even in ruins, the antiquary, the architect, and the artist, will find ample food for the gratification of their respective



SLIGO ABBEY.

predilections. The beautiful convent of the Sisters of Mercy is situated in the eastern suburbs, and from its fine position on the south side of the intersecting river, together with its architectural richness, is considered an ornament to that part of the town. The Ursuline convent is situated beyond the western suburbs, south of the entrance to the harbour, and appears to great advantage from the quay. It is a spacious square mansion, with a narrow projection, surmounted by a plain cross, in which is the entrance in the east front. West of this convent is situated a very neat and fanciful house of worship called Strand Hill Church. A new and very beautiful chapel of the sect called Independents has been recently erected in Stephen's Street, north of the river. This handsome structure partakes of many of the characteristics of the finely enriched churches of the present day, being of elegant construction, and a splendid specimen of the peculiar style of Gothic architecture called Middle Point. A large but plain house of worship for Wesleyan Methodists adjoins this building. There is also a neat Presbyterian church with an attached school in Wine Street. The Court House, a handsome building, is situated in the best and most central part of the town; and at a short distance from it are two comfortable hotels, the Hibernian and the Nelson.

Immediately opposite the latter house, and at the foot of New Bridge, is situated one of the public news-rooms of the town.

The county jail is situated on the southern side of the river, and in the eastern extremity of the town; it consists of several detached piles of building, surrounded by an extensive boundary wall. There are barracks here for cavalry and infantry, with a hospital for the men, and stabling for about sixty horses. The Custom House and Queen's Stores are well suited to the business of the port. The union workhouse stands in a healthful situation on the north side of the river; here also, a considerable decrease had then taken place in the number of the inmates. About half a mile from the town a new and tastefully-laid-out cemetery has been latterly opened for the interment of the inhabitants, without religious distinction, save that the Protestants are buried on one side of it, and the Roman Catholics on the other. A neat octagon lodge, with a portico formed by four columns and two pilasters of the Doric order, stands at the entrance, and is occupied by the sexton or caretaker. The price for opening each grave varies, being regulated according to the situation chosen, at 5*s*., 2*s*. 6*d*., and 1*s*. 6*d*. Persons whose friends are unable to pay according to these rates, are allowed free, a space being reserved and appointed for their interment.

Sligo is situated in the centre of an immense plain, environed with mountains of the greatest variety, some of which rise in harsh and irregular crags, and others in finely-rounded undulations, while others again display their rich conical tops, that in thick and hazy weather are enveloped in clouds of mist. From the summit of Cairn's Hill, which is about a mile from the cemetery, the beautiful lake of Lough Gill can be seen to fine advantage, and from its rich and picturesque characteristics, may challenge a comparison with some of the most delightful lake scenery that this part of Ireland can boast of. From this elevation the encircling mountains appear in all their grandeur. One of these magnificent ranges, sweeping from east to north, terminates in the lofty, dark, and lowering Benbulben, from beneath the overhanging brow of which a tongue of land, interspersed with several handsome seats, extends in a north-westerly direction, and ends in a narrow sandy point. The other grand range, stretching from the east in a south-westerly direction, extends its ample curve to within some half-dozen miles of the point just mentioned, the intermediate space forming the mouth of Sligo Bay. In front of this gorge rises the bold detached mountain designated Knocknaree, which, from the peculiarity of its formation, would seem to be intended by nature to constitute the base of some mighty fortress.

The following traditionary legend respecting a startling catastrophe which took place in the neighbourhood of this mountain, was detailed to me by a respectable inhabitant of Sligo, during my brief sojourn there. The scene of this fearful occurrence is a dark precipice in the side of Cope's Mountain, also called Lugnagol, and a lake in the

adjoining Valley of Glancar, near the Glen of Knocknaree. This glen is a bold fissure, which can scarcely be seen before it is entered, and which, with its rocky sides extending several hundred yards, and many feet asunder, and its embowering trees, in some places shooting up from between the cliffs of the bare rocks, presents a peculiarly striking and wild appearance. In this lonely region, it appears, Colonel Hamilton, who at the period of the great Civil War was at the head of a detachment of the Parliamentary or Protestant army, had arrived, in pursuit of some of the Irish, or Confederate Catholic party, who, as he was informed, had taken refuge there. While in this vicinity, he fell in with a shepherd or peasant, from whom, with violent threats, he extorted information touching the haunt or rendezvous of the rebels, as he called them. With apparent reluctance the captive shepherd consented to point out the lurking-place of the fugitives, and for that purpose led him and his party up the acclivity of the mountain. In order to prevent alarm, and the consequent escape of any of the obnoxious party, it was arranged that the guide should lead on stealthily to the place of their sojourn, at which, when he would arrive, it was agreed that he should, without speaking, drop his cloak as a signal. The result was, that when Hamilton and his party had reached the destined spot, the guide gave the signal, and the soldiers leaped forward to pounce upon their victims; but instead of the retreat of their supposed prey, they jumped into a steep ravine of 600 feet in depth. One only of the wretched Cromwellians escaped the onward and fatal bound; and he, as it appears, saved himself from immediate destruction by catching the branch of an overhanging tree which grew in a chasm of the rocky precipice, and there continued from the close of evening till the following morning, when the daylight discovered him to the indignant and revengeful peasant, who, carried away by strong feelings of revenge against those whom he considered as the oppressors of his country, took an axe, and cut away the branch which rendered the soldier its friendly and effectual support, and the unfortunate follower of the hated Oliver found a cavern grave beside the remains of his brethren in arms.

This story, however extraordinary or highly coloured it may appear, is very generally credited in Sligo, and the scene of its melancholy occurrence is still pointed out and designated the Protestant Leap. The deceitful guide, faithful to his own party, however treacherous to Hamilton's, had dropped his cloak just on the edge of the abyss, towards which the soldiers were rushing, and stepping aside, he remained, as it appears, to gloat over their destruction, and to add another victim to those who had been precipitated to the bottom of the glen. If historical events had not rendered us sufficiently and painfully familiar with such acts of violence and atrocity, a feeling of humanity might naturally induce us to look upon such stories as the present with even more than an eye of doubt and incredulity. Recent

events, however, so clearly demonstrative of the savageness of man's nature, as in the case of the Indian massacres, are calculated to convince us that nothing in the way of fable can equal the dreadful realities engendered by war and strife.

The line of country leading from Sligo to Boyle presents many features of a pleasing and agreeable nature, the lands being comparatively rich and fertile; while some handsome seats and picturesque lakes attract the notice of the traveller. Among these, Mercury Castle, the magnificent seat of Mr. Cooper, and Lough Arrow, which abounds in the rare and valued trout known as "Gillaroo," may be considered the most important.

Approaching the village of Ballinafad, the tourist will notice in the churchyard of Meevan the remains of an old and small chapel, and adjoining the village, O'Rourke's Castle, an extensive ruin, at one time the dwelling and the garrison of its potent and lordly chief. This ruin shows the remains of a strong circular tower, on each side of the entrance leading into the principal massive keep. A legend of a somewhat extraordinary character, relating to this once powerful sept, is still remembered, and vividly detailed by the neighbouring peasantry. The traditionary tale runs thus:—The inhabitants of the district being desirous of building a church for their accommodation, made choice of the spot whereon the ruin of this little chapel still stands, in the churchyard of Meevan, already mentioned. The chieftain of that period, being averse to the erection of a house of worship so near his castle, having consulted with his relatives and immediate followers, signified his objection to its being built in that place, and requested the parties interested to choose another site. The people, however, having made up their minds upon the subject, regardless of his opposition, commenced the building; but the consequence was, that as fast as they built, the O'Rourkes threw down each day's work, and thus the alternate building and levelling continued for a considerable length of time. After repeated conflicts between the rival parties, the people, as in almost all cases of the kind, became ultimately victorious. The most remarkable part of the story now remains to be told. After the space adjoining the new church came to be used as a burial-ground, it was soon observed that, when any member of the O'Rourke family attended a funeral, he or she would invariably be the next person, out of the entire number in attendance, who would be interred there. So frequent was this strange occurrence, and such a sensation did it create, that up to the present day no person of the name of O'Rourke will venture to enter the churchyard with a funeral. They walk with the corpse as far as a river which divides the churchyard from the adjoining ground, and then take their departure, lest the fate which attached itself to so many of their clan should be verified in their case also.

Soon after leaving Ballinafad, we commenced our ascent of the Curlew Mountain, over which an excellent road has been made at a

considerable expense. The entire face of the country from Sligo to this mountain presents a very improved and genial appearance, while the prospect from its summit breaking on the view of the delighted traveller, is such as to repay him for the time consumed in visiting this part of Ireland. Descending the Curlew Mountain, the widely spreading plains of Boyle, as remarkable for their great extent as they are for their richness and fertility, fall under observation. These magnificent plains are only second, in point of extent, to the celebrated plains of Kildare, while as feeding lands they stand unrivalled in the province, and second to few in any part of Ireland. This portion of the county of Roscommon is the property of Lord Viscount Lorton, whose magnificent seat, called Rockingham, falls under the tourist's observation as he gradually descends the side of the mountain.

Before entering the county of Roscommon, I think it expedient to direct the reader's attention to the line of country extending from Sligo to the town of Ballyshannon, in the county of Donegal, which formed a portion of my tour in the subsequent year.

Leaving the town of Sligo on a Saturday morning, which is the market-day of that town, and proceeding by the mail-car, that started at eight o'clock for Ballyshannon, I had an opportunity of forming a tolerably accurate notion of the quantity of agricultural produce with which that market is supplied; and from what I witnessed on that morning, which was in the month of October, and from what I heard while sojourning in the town, I incline to the belief that Sligo is one of the best market towns of its class in Ireland. The business of the port had considerably improved since my former visit, and a brisk trade was being carried on with Liverpool and Bristol by steamers.

Advancing by this route, the tourist enjoys a rich treat in the sublime scenery it affords, as the whole line of country, from Sligo to Ballyshannon, abounds in fine mountain and ocean views. At Drumcliffe, which is about four miles from Sligo, there is a Roman Catholic church, a new and handsome edifice; and at a short distance from it a neat Protestant church, in the Gothic style of architecture, with a square tower, enriched with ornamental minarets. This was anciently a place of considerable importance, as appears from the ruins of the monastic buildings, castles, towers, and forts which are still to be seen in the neighbourhood. Here also are to be seen curiously sculptured crosses, one of which occupies a conspicuous position, in an open area in front of the church. There are several fine seats in this vicinity, among the principal of which is Lissadell, the charming residence of Sir Robert Gore Booth, Bart., M.P.

Passing onwards, the tourist will soon arrive at the small village of Carney, which is situated beneath, and somewhat in front of, the lofty Benbulben, from which an excellent view can be obtained of Lissadell Bay, so celebrated for the superior quality of its oysters—of the extensive estuary, the flat shore, and the limited entrance to the harbour of Sligo.

Still advancing in this direction, the traveller will be called on to notice the island of Innismurray, between which and the shore the steamers and trading vessels bound for Sligo pass. This island, rising in the Atlantic, and about five miles from the shore, was rendered remarkable, at an early period of its history, by having a religious establishment founded upon it by the great St. Columb. We find that the island and its appurtenances were granted by Charles II. to the Earl of Strafford and Thomas Ratcliffe. It is now the property of Lord Viscount Palmerston. The inhabitants, consisting of some eighteen or twenty families, derive their principal means of support from the several kinds of fish that so plentifully abound on this part of the coast. In former times, in the winter season, when the island is generally rendered inaccessible, whisky was wont to be manufactured by them. A clergyman attends the island about once a month in summer, and in cases of illness as often as the exigency of each case may require. A school was established on it some years ago by the lessee of the property, who allowed £10 a year to the master.

Arriving at Clifoney, the tourist will doubtless experience much gratification on beholding the clean and fresh appearance of the houses, which here, as well as along the line for the distance of about six miles, had then been recently whitewashed, and in their exterior, at least, showed that proper care and pains are periodically bestowed upon them. Lord Palmerston is the owner of this property, which extends from the summit of the Benbulben range of mountains to the sea, while Sir Robert Gore Booth is the owner of that which occupies the other side of this extensive mountain range. The noble Viscount's property can not only be distinguished by the whitened cottages that appear on the whole of this thickly-populated district, but also by the extensive line of main drainage which runs along the entire length of his estate. These extensive drainage works have been carried out solely at his lordship's expense, and, as a matter of course, must be of considerable advantage to the tenantry. Running as they do parallel with the line of road, and immediately close to its border, they fall fully under the traveller's notice. Lord Palmerston has also caused a quay to be built on the south-eastern side of the projecting peninsula of Mullaghmore, where the deep waters of the estuary enable vessels of moderate size to take in and discharge their cargoes with ease and safety. He has likewise caused to be built some neat houses and cottages for the accommodation of respectable families in the bathing season, and some extensive stores. At the village of Clifoney is a new and handsome Roman Catholic church, of cruciform construction, and also a school in connection with the National Board. There is a good hotel here called the Palmerston Arms, the noble Viscount's arms appearing on the sign-board. There is likewise a dispensary in the town. The people of this district are a fine hardy race, the men being well-knit, vigorous, and capable of enduring much labour and fatigue. Their habits of life, and their daily avoca-

tions, as half labourers and half fishermen, are calculated to engender feelings of self-reliance, accompanied by a comparative sense of independence, conducive alike to health and cheerfulness. The women are highly favoured, being tall, graceful, and well formed, with, in general, dark hair and beautiful black eyes.

Soon after leaving Lord Palmerston's property, the tourist will arrive at the village of Tullaghan, which is situated on the sea-shore, and in the parish of Rossinver, which is partly in the lower half barony of Carbery, county of Sligo, but chiefly in that of Rossclogher, county of Leitrim. The scenery in this neighbourhood is diversified and beautiful, and the seats of the gentry are many and attractive. Of these, the residence of T. Connelly, Esq., M.P., is deserving of special notice, being delightfully situated on the shores of Lough Melvin, a magnificent sheet of water, studded with islets, and celebrated for the Gillaroo trout, which is found in great abundance within it. This splendid seat, from its enviable and commanding position, has been called Mount Prospect—a very appropriate designation, as it embraces views at once varied, picturesque, and sublime. The river Drowse, which flows from Lough Melvin into the sea, divides this county from that of Donegal.

Having thus conveyed my readers to the northern extremity of the county of Sligo, I shall now return to the confines of the county of Roscommon, into which I entered, after descending the Curlew Mountain, by the line of road which leads to the town of Boyle, which handsome and flourishing town, one of the most important in that county, is about seven miles from the town of Carrick-on-Shannon, and eighty-five from Dublin.

CHAPTER XII.

PORTIONS OF THE PROVINCES OF CONNAUGHT AND ULSTER.

THE town of Boyle is finely situated in the northern extremity of the county of Roscommon, and on the banks of the river Boyle, from which it may be said to take its name. This river, which flows from Lough Gara into Lough Key, and thence discharges itself into the Shannon, divides the town into two nearly equal parts, the older of which extends up the acclivity on the north side, and the modern portion leads in the opposite or southern direction. The principal bridge, which spans the river in the centre of the town, is a handsome structure of three arches, about 100 feet in length, and 42 in breadth, the central arch being about 30 feet span. It was erected by the late Lord Viscount Lorton, at an expense of £500. Another bridge, also a modern structure, of a single arch, 50 feet in span, crosses the river somewhat lower down; while below it again is a third bridge, of five small arches. This, which is an old structure, is called Abbeytown Bridge, and is situated near the ancient abbey. Some of the streets in this town are wide and commodious, and the houses very respectable, while the shops can bear a comparison with most towns of the same class. The principal part of the town is situated near the south bank of the river, where a handsome crescent, of comparatively recent erection, has been formed. The Court House is situated here, and is a neat building constructed of sandstone. There is a bridewell attached to this building. The union workhouse is also in this section of the town, and at this time was showing a gratifying decrease in the number of its inmates. The Protestant church is situated on the north side of the river, and is a good house of worship, but a comparatively plain building, with a characteristic tower. The Catholic church is also situated on the north side, and at the extremity of the oldest part of the town. This church is even plainer in style than that of the Establishment already mentioned. There are a couple of places of worship for Wesleyan Methodists in the town. Boyle may be called a good business town, the markets being well supplied with butter, for the sale of which the market is held on Monday. The general market, which is well supplied with provisions, is held on Saturday, within an enclosed area at the north-west side of the bridge, in which there are also shambles. There are

nine fairs in the year. The old and grand mansion of the King family has long been converted into a military barrack; but from the nature of its construction, and the space occupied by the hall, staircase, and corridors, it is not capable of accommodating so large a number as, from its size and external appearance, might otherwise be expected. It affords comfortable quarters, however, to three companies of infantry, with hospital accommodation for thirty patients, and stabling for about half a dozen horses.

The ancient abbey of this place, which was founded in the twelfth century, and dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, is situated on the bank of the river, near the handsome bridge of a single arch already mentioned, and at some distance above the old structure called Abbeytown Bridge. This abbey, which was a branch of the renowned Mellifont Abbey, in the county of Louth, was appropriated to brethren of the Cistercian order of St. Bernard, of whom Peter O'Mordha was made the first abbot. It consisted of a large quadrangular range of buildings, the magnificent church occupying the north side, with a spacious open court in the centre. Portions of the conventual buildings, consisting of towers, turrets, and lofty gables, are still existing, but they are so enveloped in the dense folds of the protecting ivy, as to be almost invisible to the searching eye of the antiquarian. With some pains, however, he is enabled to trace their various intricacies, consisting of winding stairs and subterraneous passages; these, together with the durability of the materials of which they are composed, prove the great care bestowed upon their construction and formation, and also afford evidence that something more than the rude hand of time was employed in reducing them to their present ruined state. This supposition is but too well borne out; for we find that, in the year 1235, the English forces, under the Lords Justices Maurice Fitzgerald and MacWilliam, encamped within the monastery, and seized upon everything belonging to it. In 1315, it was pillaged by Rory O'More, so celebrated for his adventurous and daring spirit. In 1569, it was granted by Queen Elizabeth to Patrick Cusacke, by whom, or by one of his immediate successors, it became forfeited; and after other vicissitudes, it was granted, in 1603, to Sir John King, the ancestor of its present owner, Lord Viscount Lorton. It would seem that Oliver Cromwell, who resembled a destroying angel in his progress through this country, laid his unhallowed hands upon it, as the person who accompanied me through the ruins pointed out a cannon shot of about 18lbs. weight, which was discharged against the walls of the church by one of the followers of that ferocious soldier. This ball, which is kept in the oven of what was the kitchen of the monastery, was too potent not to have left its mark; and hence we find that, not only was the pillar which supported one of the arches on the south greatly shaken and injured by its force, but even the wall on the opposite or northern side of the church, was split for some length by its rebound. The church is the most perfect of these

ruins, the nave, choir, transepts, and lofty central tower being in tolerable preservation. The nave is about 130 feet in length and 25 in breadth, and is separated from the aisles by ranges of strong and uncommonly beautiful arches. Those on the south side, eight in number, are all of the rounded or Norman style, and spring from magnificent columns, four of which are circular, and the other four composed of massive square pillars, with three light columns, forming a clustered auxiliary, with a finely carved capital attached to the sides from which the arches spring. On the northern side a like number of elegant arches, of the pointed or English-Gothic style, spring from much plainer pillars of square form. Some of the clerestory windows can be seen peering beneath the thick and mantling ivy. The arches of the tower are very beautiful, and are nearly 50 feet in height, that on the chancel side being of the pointed Gothic style, richly panelled, and springing from clustered columns, with highly enriched capitals, from which a fine belting course runs along the sides of the chancel. The nave and transept arches of the tower are in the Norman style, and spring from massive piers, in the centre of each of which rises an attached semicircular column, with an ornamented capital, but not so rich nor so elaborately wrought as those that support the chancel arch. The chancel arch does not rise to such a height as its finely rounded fellows. The chancel window, of two massive stone mullions, is very grand, and is of triple character, the head of each division being surmounted by a beautiful panelled Gothic arch. The western door is beneath a deeply receding and richly moulded panelled Gothic arch, with a window above it; of the Norman style. There is a winding stairs in this end of the ruin, which leads to the summit of the gable, from which a very extensive view can be obtained. It is not unusual for respectable parties visiting the ruins to select this spot as a place to dine or lunch. On the south of the church extend massive walls, with finely arched turrets, and other buildings. The splendidly carved stones which formed the grand altar are piled together within the chancel. One of the principal of them is an elaborately wrought head of the Blessed Virgin, and another an emblem of Death. A nicely carved head of one of the abbots was also among the altar ornaments; but at the time when I paid my visit, this ancient relic was temporarily removed, having been sent to a gentleman in the county of Longford, whose age and delicate state of health prevented him from visiting the abbey. The tomb of the abbot is also to be seen within the chancel. The arched space, or sedilia, reserved for the use of the bishop near the grand altar during the celebration of mass, is still in a state of preservation, as is that on the opposite side for the use of the abbot. Altars stood on the sides of the transepts, and on the eastern side of each transept are three cloistered cells. The sacristy is situated on the outside of the south transept. A neat garden, containing rare plants and flowers, lies between the southern wall of the monastery court and the river;

and beneath the south-western turret is an elegant moss-house, of circular form, with a rustic seat, whereon the visitor may rest and enjoy the serenity and beauty of all the surrounding picturesque scenery. The entrance to the ruins is by the handsome cottage, which is occupied by Mr. Robertson, brother of Captain Robertson, the liberal and polite agent of the noble proprietor. The seat of Captain Robertson, called Abbey View, is situated on a commanding eminence north of the abbey, and is a very beautiful residence. The house is a new and substantial edifice, with a rich lawn in front of it, which slopes somewhat precipitously towards the road, and is surrounded with a semicircular row of fine trees. The view from the hall-door is really grand and extensive, comprehending within it a portion of Lord Lorton's magnificent demesne. Near the entrance to this residence is a plain chapel of ease, and on the opposite side of the roadway, the constabulary barrack, a new and handsome house.

About a mile from the town, on an abrupt elevation, are the remains of the old church of Assylin, which, from the appearance of its dilapidated and ruined walls, which are of considerable extent, must have been a very spacious building. The large cemetery in which the ruins are situated is still used as a place of interment by the inhabitants of the town. At a short distance lower down the river the impeded water rushes with considerable impetuosity over a ledge of interrupting rocks.

Near this place is the ford formerly called Athdalaragh, and at present Ardagh, where anciently stood an abbey, founded for Canons Regular, which subsequently became the seat of a bishopric, over which, as we are informed, St. Comgallan presided in the time of St. Patrick. This abbey existed till the year 1201. On the right side of the road to Lough Gara, is an ancient cromlech, said to be one of the largest of these rude monuments in the island. The table stone, which has a considerable inclination, is 15 feet in length, and 11 in breadth, and was formerly supported on five upright pillars, one of which has been removed.

Boyle, which is a parish in the barony of Boyle, had a charter of incorporation conferred on it in the year 1613, by James I. A new charter was granted to the inhabitants by James II., but was never acted on, the former continuing to be the governing charter. The town returned two members to parliament until the passing of the Act of Union, when it was disfranchised, and the sum of £15,000, awarded as compensation, was paid to Lord Lorton, as the executor of his father, the Earl of Kingston. There is a branch of the National Bank of Ireland in the town, and also a couple of good hotels, one of which is called the Rockingham Arms, which has for a sign the arms of Lord Lorton, the lord of the soil. On that part of the demesne which immediately adjoins the town, the late noble proprietor caused to be laid out an ample space of ground, which has been enriched with nice plantations, ornamental fountains, flower-beds,

and every variety of tree and shrub that can well be imagined. This beautifully ornamented space is intersected with nicely gravelled walks, and appropriated for the use of the inhabitants of the town, to whom it is open from ten o'clock in the morning until six in the afternoon. A fine statue of William III., standing on a lofty pedestal, has been placed in the centre of these pleasure grounds.

Rockingham, the extensive and magnificent demesne of Lord Viscount Lorton, is entered, at the distance of about a statute mile from Boyle, by a massive iron gate, beneath a lofty Gothic arch, surmounted by a corbelled parapet. A small gate-lodge stands on each side of the arch. About half a mile from this entrance, another gate-lodge is approached, which is a very beautiful structure of the kind. It consists of a centre, which stands above the magnificent elliptic Gothic arch that spans the avenue, and two wings, which rise no higher than the crown of the arch. The elevated centre shows three handsome windows to each front, and each of the flanking wings two windows of the same character, but not so large. About half a mile from this lodge, the visitor enters a spacious avenue, of nearly a mile in length, with a row of stately elms on each side, the overhanging branches of which form a continuous and unbroken natural arch. Glades and dells of picturesque beauty occasionally present themselves through the opening vistas, and by their varied scenes of sylvan loveliness excite the liveliest feelings of interest and admiration. This avenue terminates in a rich and extensive lawn, with intersecting walks and drives, which lead to the courtly mansion called Rockingham House, that in the distance presents itself. This splendid mansion, which is composed of pure granite in the Grecian-Ionic style of architecture, is delightfully situated on an elevation, upon the south-eastern extremity of Lough Key or Kea, whose widely spreading bosom presents a sea-like surface. In this lake, which is the largest in the county of Roscommon, there are various islands, on some of which are the remains of ancient buildings. On the largest of these islands stands a fine castellated structure, with a light turret on its western side, from which springs a flag-staff. This is called Castle Island. It is also designated MacDermot's Island, which name it derives from one of the native and powerful chiefs of the district, who erected a castle upon it. On another of these islets, called Trinity Island, are the remains of an ancient abbey, which was dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and from which doubtless the locality takes its name. On the island of Inchmacneerin, also situated in this lake, are the ruins of an ancient priory. This fine expansive sheet of water, at present generally known by the appellation of the Rockingham Lake, is the receptacle of several tributary rivers, which enter it from the south and west. But that from which it derives its principal supply is Lough Gara, situated on the borders of the county of Sligo, whence a rapid stream which flows through the town of Boyle, and familiarly called the Boyle Water, enters the western extremity of it,

and discharges itself by a narrow outlet, which soon expands into several small lakes, that take their general name from the small town of Oakford, in their vicinity, and thence, flowing in an easterly direction, lose themselves in the Shannon. The principal entrance to the mansion is in the south front, before which projects a double portico, the outer portion formed by coupled columns of the Ionic order on each extremity, and by two single columns of the same order in the centre. The inner part, or porch, extends considerably on each side, each extension being formed by three columns of the same order. Pilasters, corresponding in number and style with the columns, stand attached to the side wall of the mansion. Before the west front appears a semicircular terrace, bordered by a range of nice balustraded stone-work. This front displays a central projection, but no portico. The north front exhibits a beautiful façade, consisting of a semicircular projection and flanking wings, with a porch before the half circle, formed by six splendid Ionic columns, supporting a perfect entablature, surrounded by an open balustrade. There are three elegant windows in each of the three stories of this front, those in the lower story serving as doors which lead to the beautiful terrace that extends to the margin of the magnificent lake. The eastern front is entered through an extensive conservatory, the sides of which are lined with the rarest exotics, including the lemon and the orange. A second range, or hall, of still greater extent, intervenes between the orangery and the mansion, and leads to the elegantly furnished saloons and boudoirs. A terraced portico has been formed before this front; while widely spreading and beautifully wooded lawns surround the superb mansion on all sides. At about the distance of a furlong south-east of the house is situated the neat church, or chapel of ease. There are four entrances, with nice gate-lodges, leading into the extensive demesne, which, together with the lake, comprises 3,200 acres, 1,800 of which are in the former, and 1,400 in the latter. Near the most distant gate-lodge, on the Carrick-on-Shannon line of road, is another handsome Protestant church. The gardens, which are very extensive, and very carefully attended to, are situated about a quarter of a mile south-west of the mansion, and are laid out on the most approved plan of the English garden style. Here I may be permitted to observe, that according to some of the ablest commentators on this delightful branch of modern science, English gardening, properly so called, has, like the country itself, undergone great changes and revolutions; but, in latter years, and especially since the country has settled down to a state of permanent peace and tranquillity, so has this important art—so desirable as an appendage of elegant recreation and domestic comfort—been established on a fixed, comprehensive, and well-defined system. An extensive nursery, well stocked with young trees, plants, and flowers, situated opposite the grand gate-lodge, is reserved exclusively for the use of the demesne, the gardens, and the pleasure grounds.

Owing to the taste and liberality of the late Viscount Lorton, Rockingham may be said to hold the same rank in the west that the grand and almost unrivalled Mitchelstown, the splendid seat of his brother, the Earl of Kingstown, does in the south, being that of one of the finest seats in the province.

On entering the town of Carrick-on-Shannon, the capital and assize town of the county of Leitrim, the tourist becomes gratified on beholding the many agreeable features which it presents. The first of these is the fine bridge of six arches that crosses the Shannon, which here divides the counties of Leitrim and Roscommon. This town, formerly a parliamentary borough, is situated partly in the parish of Kilcullen, barony of Boyle, and county of Roscommon, but chiefly in the parish of Killoghart, barony and county of Leitrim, twenty-seven miles from Sligo, and seventy-seven from Dublin. From the centre of the bridge—which was built some years ago by the Shannon Navigation Company, who at the same time erected a quay for the convenience of steamboats plying from Athlone to the town—the new and beautiful house of Charles M. St. George, Esq., the lord of the soil, appears to the greatest advantage. This elegant mansion is in the enriched Elizabethan style of architecture, and from its light and graceful appearance commands the admiration of the visitor. The Court House, a handsome building with a granite front, enriched by a neat portico supported by four columns, adjoins this fine residence. In the lofty hall of this building, based on a pedestal of variegated Galway marble, stands a fine bust of the late Lord Clements, who was born in 1805, and died universally lamented in 1839. This bust is of white marble, and was executed in Italy at an expense of 200 guineas.

The jail, situated at a short distance on the right of the Court House, is a compact building of polygonal form, with the governor's house in the centre, from which can be had a full view of the several yards in which the prisoners are permitted to enjoy exercise. In this vicinity also is situated a very nice market, in which corn, butter, potatoes, and other articles are sold and weighed. This eligible and convenient market is enclosed within a handsome iron railing, embedded in cut stone. A plentiful supply of water for the market and the adjoining shambles has been provided by Mr. St. George, the owner of the property, at whose expense these desirable appendages to a well-regulated town have been provided. Large quantities of butter are purchased here for the Dublin and Newry markets. The market is held on Thursday, on which day I happened to pay my visit, when I was a good deal surprised and equally pleased to see such great supplies of corn and butter, and such large numbers as were in attendance. There are nine fairs held here in the year. Between the market and the margin of the Shannon an ample space has been enclosed within a neat iron railing, and appropriated to a promenade and pleasure grounds, for the recreation and amusement

of the inhabitants, by Mr. St. George. This large and ornamental area is nicely planted, and intersected with finely gravelled walks, and is a most desirable acquisition, as creditable to the liberal and enlightened views of the considerate proprietor, as it is essential to the health and comfort of the people. The Protestant church, erected on a plot of ground granted by the late Sir George St. George, Bart., was built in 1826, at an expense of £2,000, which was granted as a loan by the Board of First Fruits. It is a handsome and regular cruciform structure, with a fine pinnacled tower and neat spire. The Catholic church is a cruciform structure of plainer appearance, but still a commodious and spacious house of worship, which, by its fresh and pleasing exterior, affords evidence of the care and attention bestowed upon it. The residence of the parish priest, the Very Reverend Doctor Dawson, vicar-general of the diocese, is immediately opposite the church. The school under his direction was at this time held in the rear of his house. There is a Presbyterian meeting-house, and also a Wesleyan Methodist chapel in the town. The small military barrack is situated in the eastern end of the town; and at a short distance from it the County Infirmary. On an elevation in the same direction stands the union workhouse, which at this time contained the comparatively small number of 160 inmates.

The stranger who visits this town must be struck by the number of fine undulating hills which encircle it on every side. These hills, about a dozen in all, have been, by some fanciful observer, compared to a basket of eggs, their summits being so exquisitely rounded and of such uniform height. The houses in general are very good, and many of the shops large and nicely fitted up; indeed, the whole town presents a clean and agreeable appearance. These improvements have taken place within what may be called a comparatively recent period. While here, I was informed by an elderly gentleman, a native of the town, that within his own remembrance, about forty years ago, there were but three slated houses in the town. The steamboat plying between this town and Athlone in the autumn of 1855, was a small vessel of limited power, which proceeded at the rate of about six miles an hour. She was about to be replaced by another boat of double her speed. These vessels tow up the large lighters which convey goods to the town and to various places along the banks of the Shannon.

Having thus placed before my readers such particulars regarding some of the most prominent and interesting portions of the provinces of Leinster and Connaught, as my visits as a tourist have enabled me to supply, aided by reference to the most approved historical and topographical authorities at my command, I shall now, as best I can, endeavour to bring under their notice portions of the important province of Ulster, to which I made my first visit in 1854. On this occasion, proceeding by Dublin, I arrived at Newry, which I made my starting point. This place has suffered considerably by reason of

the main line of railway from Dublin to Belfast being so far distant from it, the nature of the ground rendering it difficult, and therefore inexpedient, to bring it into immediate contiguity with the town. A branch has consequently been constructed from Newry to the nearest available point in connection with the trunk line; but from the inequality of the ground the point of junction is four miles from the town, although the distance in a direct line is less by one half. On my last visit to this town, which was made in the month of June, 1862, the people of business were complaining sadly of the great change that had taken place in the general traffic of the place, which they attributed to the operation of the railway, it having, as they allege, drawn the greater portion of the wonted land traffic of the town to Dublin and Belfast. From the failure of the previous harvest, most of the Irish towns were suffering from the dulness of trade at this time; but nothing so bad as what I witnessed here came under my observation in any of them which I then visited. This town, besides being environed on all sides by fine undulating elevations, and in the distance by lofty and picturesque mountains, is favourably situated on the banks of the river called Newry Water, which passes through it beneath four stone bridges; thence flowing through a richly cultivated district, in its progress to Warren Point, a distance of about five miles, it falls into Carlingford Bay. The canal, by which vessels of moderate tonnage are enabled to approach the quays, is crossed by four wooden draw-bridges. That part of the town which extends west of the river is in the barony of Upper Orior, in the county of Armagh, but that portion which is situated east of the river, and constitutes the lordship of Newry, is in the county of Down. The general aspect of the town as seen from a distance is cheerful and prepossessing, being enriched by the towers and spires of the public buildings. The modern part of it, called the Low Ground, is well laid out, and the streets, including that which extends from Marcus Square, which may be called the most fashionable quarter, to the Market Cross, are wide and regular. The houses, which are built of the fine hard granite which is very plentiful here, present a regular and substantial appearance. That part called the Old Town is situated on the side of an acclivity, in an eastern direction, and like most of the old towns in this country, the streets are narrow and irregular, as well as being in this locality somewhat precipitous.

The Protestant church of St. Patrick, formerly the parish church, is situated in this section of the town, and with its attached tower appears a prominent and striking object. The convent of the Nuns of St. Clare is also situated in this part of the town, and with its nice chapel and extensive school, where large numbers of poor children receive the benefit of a good education, must be looked upon as being a most valuable and interesting institution. At Sandy's Street, in the north end of the town, in the centre of a fine open area, is a monument erected to the late Mr. Corry. The Sessions House, a handsome

building, is situated in the same vicinity; and also a good building, the lower story of which is appropriated to a savings-bank, and the upper part to an assembly-room. The Bank of Ireland, a commodious house, is situated in the same neighbourhood. In that part of the suburbs called the North Road, are some new and handsome villas, one group of which is called Downshire Place, and another Sidney Place. In this quarter is a Presbyterian church, a Wesleyan house of worship, and a very handsome church-like edifice called the Scriptural School. On an eminence in the same vicinity is the infirmary.

The National Model School, a nice modern edifice in the Elizabethan style of architecture, is finely situated on an elevated site, on the Armagh side of the river; and immediately opposite to it a new and very fine building of ample proportions, which is a convent of the devoted Sisters of Mercy, whose unwearied exertions in ministering comfort to the poor and the lowly, as well as in imparting instruction to the ignorant and the fatherless, cause them to be looked upon as a blessing to every neighbourhood in which they become located. The union workhouse is likewise situated on the Armagh side of the town, and on a commanding and elevated site, from which splendid views of the town and its environs, with the river, the canal, and the adjoining mountains can be obtained. The care and economy with which this institution is conducted, and the cleanliness and regularity apparent in every part of it, are such as to reflect the highest credit on those under whose guardianship and management it is placed. The number of inmates contained within it in the last week of June, 1862, when I paid my visit, was 470, showing an increase of 107 since the same period the preceding year. The line extending south of Marcus Square is an open, commodious, and regular thoroughfare, which constitutes a healthful promenade, and in which are some good public buildings. The most important of these is the new Protestant church, a fine building in the Gothic style of architecture, constructed entirely of the hard native granite. It was erected in 1819, at an expense of £12,600, exclusively of the sum of £2,700 expended on the purchase of the site. A splendid tower, from which springs a light and graceful spire, is divided by a vestibule from the eastern end of the church, while at each extremity of the western end rises a characteristic turret, enriched with ornamental pinnacles. The principal entrance is between these turrets, while a double row of windows, six on each side, appear between handsome buttresses, which end in ornamental pinnacles.

The Catholic cathedral of the diocese of Dromore, dedicated to St. Patrick, is situated in the immediate vicinity of Marcus Square, and is a very fine church, somewhat in the style of the magnificent Roman Catholic church of Dundalk, which is that of the enriched Gothic. It consists of a nave and side aisles, and is 120 feet in length, 74 in breadth, and 46 in height. It is constructed of cut granite, and shows

its gabled front to the street, which, with its fine semi-octagon buttresses, one on each extremity of the nave, ending in open minarets, constitutes a noble façade. Above the door, which is within a richly moulded elliptic Gothic arch, is a fine window of four lights, in the Perpendicular style. A window of similar style, of three lights, appears in the chancel end, between two square pinnacled turrets, not unlike those which rise on each extremity of the western end of the Protestant church. The front windows of the aisles are of three lights, and those of the sides of two. The clerestory windows are of the same character, and, like the former, appear between handsome buttresses. The interior is in keeping with the beautiful exterior, the nave being divided from the aisles by rows of splendidly wrought pillars, from which spring the fine arcade arches. The grand altar stands within a noble arch that spans the entire nave, while the side altars, chaste and beautiful, are each within an arch that extends over each aisle. His lordship, Dr. Leahy, the Right Reverend Bishop of the diocese, who resides at Violet Hill, about a mile from the town, and who was a brother of the order of Dominican or Preaching Friars, celebrates mass, and generally preaches every Sunday morning in this cathedral. A new and very fine small house of worship has been recently built on a spacious open part of the low ground, immediately opposite the Protestant church already mentioned, and is of cruciform shape, with a beautiful window in the nave and in each transept. A nice tower stands attached to the south side of the nave gable, from which rises an elegant spire. This neat edifice has been erected by members of the sect called Unitarians.

The old Roman Catholic church of St. Mary, erected in 1789, is a well-built cruciform structure, with galleries in the nave and transepts. It is situated in the southern end of the town, and is kept in excellent repair; there is a handsome cemetery attached to this church. There are military barracks and a bridewell in the town. There are also a couple of good hotels in Newry, and several extensive and handsome shops. Besides the Bank of Ireland, the Provincial and Belfast banks have branches here. There are several mills in the town, one of which only is a cotton factory; but about three miles from the town there is a very extensive flax-mill, belonging to the Messrs. Richardson, of Belfast, in which some 700 hands are usually employed. Fairs are held here on the 24th of April and 29th of October; while others are held on the first Monday of every month at Ballybot, on the opposite or Armagh side of the river; the markets are held on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. The mercantile business of the town has long been very considerable: but the principal commerce of the port is the cross-channel trade. Vessels of the largest size can come up to Warren Point, where at all times of tide they can ride in perfect safety in from six to eight fathoms water. Three steamers ply between this port, Liverpool, and Bristol, twice a week; they take in and discharge their

cargoes at Warren Point. A small steam-boat is stationed at this place for the purpose of towing the ordinary trading vessels to Newry; those drawing 15 feet of water being enabled to proceed by the canal, which was constructed at a vast expense more than a century ago, to the vicinity of the Custom House, a plain building, where they unload their cargoes.

Newry possesses another great advantage from its inland navigation, whereby lighters are enabled to proceed by the canal through a line of country extending to Lough Neagh, a distance of thirty-two miles. Among the earliest notices taken of the town of Newry is that to be found in the "Annals of the Four Masters," wherein it is stated that a monastery was founded here, in which a yew tree was planted by St. Patrick. We are also informed that a Cistercian abbey was founded here by Maurice MacLoughlin, King of Ireland, the charter of which is still extant, and has been published by Dr. O'Connor in his work upon Irish writers. The charter of MacLoughlin, it appears, was renewed, with enlarged powers, by Hugh de Lacy, Earl of Ulster, in 1237, by which the head of the house was made a mitred abbot, with episcopal jurisdiction within the precincts of the lordship of Newry. When Sir John de Courcy took possession of this district, he secured the pass, which was considered of great importance, it being the only road through the mountains between Ulster and Leinster, by a castle, which was destroyed by Bruce's army on their retreat after their signal defeat at Dundalk. Many were the conflicts which took place here between the O'Neills and the other Irish chieftains, and the English settlers, down to a comparatively late period. After the flight of the great Earl of Tyrone and his friend, the Earl of Tyrconnel, James I. made a grant of the entire lordship to Marshal Bagnal, who restored the castle, and rebuilt the town. At the breaking out of the Civil War in 1641, Sir Con Magennis took the town and castle, and at the same time slew many of the inhabitants. It was shortly after retaken by Lord Conway, who, however, did not hold it long, as O'Neill surprised it by night, and regained its possession. In 1642, Munroe, the Parliamentary general, invested the town, and took it by storm. After the Restoration, the town, recovering from its prostrate condition, which was the result of the many vicissitudes and sufferings with which it had to contend, continued to flourish until the year 1689, when it was burned by the Duke of Berwick in his retreat from Duke Schomberg. Newry has gradually risen to its present state of commercial prosperity since the reign of William III., that monarch having extended his protection and bounty to the merchants and traders of the town, to whom he made grants for clearing and embanking the river, and for the general improvement of the harbour.

The trip from Newry to Warren Point is exceedingly pleasant, and repays very well indeed, as the line of railway passes along the bed of the river, and through a valley, on the side of which rise lofty

mountains. That called Altnaveagh, in the lordship of Newry, affords excellent pasturage, and is, to a considerable extent, cultivated; but the greater part of the Fathom range is harsh and barren. A stream which flows down the side of the mountain near Narrow Water divides the counties of Armagh and Louth.

Narrow Water Castle and demesne, the delightful residence of R. Hall, Esq., are well worthy of a visit, and are thrown open to the public by their spirited proprietor two days in the week. The architecture of the castle is of a highly enriched character, and the view from the eminence in the rear of it one of the finest that can well be imagined. The ancient castle, or keep, which stands on the bank of the river, opposite Mr. Hall's grand castle, is all that remains of the extensive monastery which had long flourished under the fostering care and protection of many kings and powerful chiefs. The castle of Narrow Water belonged originally to the Magennisses, chieftains of the district.

Arriving at Warren Point, the tourist becomes struck with its fine appearance, exhibiting as it does many traits of recent improvement, that bear the impress of a growing refinement, and afford evidence that, in the summer and bathing season, Warren Point is to the town of Newry what Kingstown and Queenstown are to the cities of Dublin and Cork—the resort of elegance and fashion. This rising place consists principally of three sides of a square, the fourth being open to the bay and harbour. It is surrounded by new and handsome houses, the lower stories of which are chiefly converted into shops; while in the suburbs appear terraces, villas, and nice cottages, some of which are occupied by the opulent merchants of Newry, to which they can run down in a few minutes by the railway. The remainder, in the summer months, afford accommodation to visitors from distant places. The Roman Catholic church of this place is a handsome cruciform edifice, with a fine triplet window in the end of the nave, and a double window of the same style in each transept. It is decorated with ornamented pinnacles, surmounted by a rich cross. The interior is in keeping with the faultless exterior, the altars being chaste and beautiful. The side altars, as well as that of the centre, are composed of marble, and enriched with appropriate statues. The nice residence of the parish priest, the Rev. John Brennan, immediately adjoins the church, and, together with it, forms a goodly feature. This energetic and pious clergyman has recently erected a new and very handsome church at Mayo Bridge, which is about five miles from Warren Point. It is a fine structure, consisting of a nave and side aisles about 120 feet in length by 60 in breadth, the aisles being divided from the nave by handsome and lofty pointed arches, springing from elegant circular columns with octangular capitals. The grand and side altars are of rich marble, with columnar and varied decorations. A beautiful statue of the Immaculate Virgin stands on one side of the grand altar, and one of St. Joseph on the

other. Above the Lady's altar, in the north aisle, is a splendid statue of the Holy Virgin and Child, and above that in the south aisle, an equally fine statue of St. Patrick, to whom the church is dedicated. This church, so creditable to the good pastor and his people, is constructed entirely of granite, with a nice double belfry on its western end, and a characteristic cross on that of the chancel. It is in the Pointed Gothic style of architecture, with a highly-pitched roof, and being built on the side of an elevated range, appears a very interesting object in the surrounding landscape. Midway between Warren Point and this church is another out chapel of this union, a handsome cruciform edifice, finely situated on a gentle elevation, and surrounded by rich and vigorous plantations. The Protestant church of Warren Point is a very neat building, sufficiently large for the requirements of the locality. There is also a Wesleyan Methodist place of worship here. On the opposite side of the bay appears the Protestant church of O'Meath, in the county of Louth, and at a short distance from it the Roman Catholic church and National school, all picturesque and very interesting features.

The nice town of Rostrevor, which is about two miles from Warren Point, is an exceedingly beautiful place, possessing natural advantages which must ever cause it to be admired and appreciated by all who have the slightest pretensions to a love of fine mountain and marine scenery. It is situated near the foot of the grand range of the Mourne mountains, by which it is completely sheltered from the north-east winds, and protected on the north and west by such a group of splendid undulating hills as He alone, from whose Almighty hand they have sprung, could have moulded. Many of these finely-rounded and sloping elevations are planted to their summits, and display a richness and verdure in their foliage which cannot be surpassed. The shores of this partially sequestered and beauteous place are washed by the waters of the magnificent bay, which appears in the form of an expansive lake four miles in length, and over three in breadth; while the hoary ruins of Carlingford, and its towering rugged mountain, as seen on the opposite side of the bay, contrast finely with its own rich and luxuriant appearance. This eminently beautiful place may be justly called the Killarney of the North, and consequently the Northerners not only appreciate, but are exceedingly fond of it. The town, a fine little seaport, is situated in the barony of Upper Iveagh, and county of Down, about seven miles from Newry, and seventy from Dublin. The streets are open and spacious, and contain about 200 houses, which, being for the most part large and handsomely built, give it an air of richness and comfort; while the seashore, embellished with numerous seats, handsome villas, and picturesque cottages, holds out no ordinary attraction to such as indulge in the luxury of dwelling for a portion of each year amid the healthful and invigorating scenes which can only be enjoyed in rural life. From the small pier and quay, which have been erected for the

accommodation of small craft and fishing boats, a commodious walk extends for nearly a mile in length, and is enriched and thickly shaded with stately and umbrageous trees. Rostrevor, like Warren Point, is largely frequented in the bathing season. Fairs are held here on Shrove-Tuesday, on the 1st of August, the 1st of November, and the 11th of December.

The Protestant church of Rostrevor is a handsome edifice, with a lofty embattled tower, crowned with ornamental pinnacles. Near it is situated the new and beautiful Catholic church, which had been consecrated the Sunday before I paid my visit. It is a fine cruciform structure, 80 feet in length, exclusive of the tower, and 70 feet in breadth at the transepts. The tower, then no higher than the pitch of the roof, stands at the western end of the nave, in which is the principal entrance; there are two other doors, one on each side of the tower. Within a lofty arched recess in the eastern end of the nave, and beneath a semi-window of Gothic character, filled with elegant stained glass, stands the beautiful altar and tabernacle, of richly variegated marble. On each side of the recess, the ceiling of which is a deep sky-blue, spangled with golden stars, is a handsome niche, in one of which stands a figure of St. Peter, and in the other, one of St. Paul. There is a full-length Gothic window, enriched with stained glass, in each transept, and three of the same character in each side of the nave. There is also a Presbyterian house of worship in the town. In the ancient churchyard of the town is the ruin of an old church, of oblong form, with the remains of a handsome window in the eastern end, within a semicircular recess, in which stood the altar. While here I noticed an elegantly-sculptured monumental cross, which stands at the head of the grave of the late Mrs. Rosse, the lady of the distinguished general of that name, who had resided in the neighbourhood.

In the immediate vicinity of the town is the fine mansion and demesne of the Rosse family, which is called Carrickbawn. This very beautiful place is sheltered by handsome hills and adorned with fine plantations, between which occasionally appears the splendid mansion, enriched with numerous ornamental pinnacles, which give it an air of stateliness and grandeur. On a part of the demesne which adjoins the road at a short distance from the town, is a monumental obelisk erected to the memory of General Rosse, who fell in battle near Baltimore, in America, while leading on the British troops to the victory which they obtained on the 12th of September, 1814. On the four sides of the pedestal are recorded the principal engagements in which the distinguished deceased bore a conspicuous part. The monument is a *facsimile* of the Wellington testimonial in the Phœnix Park, Dublin; but, as a matter of course, not so large.

Rostrevor was anciently called Castle Roe, from its original founder, Rory, one of the family of the Magennisses, Lords of Iveagh, of whose baronial castle, subsequently occupied by the Trevor family,

there are still some remains near the town. It derived its present appellation from Rose, youngest daughter of Sir Marmaduke Whitchurch, after whose marriage with Sir Trevor, Viscount Dungannon, the family seat, Iveagh Castle, was invariably called Rostrevor. On the side of the mountain in this vicinity is a stone of very large dimensions, called Cloughmor, which is frequently visited on account of the very extensive and beautiful prospect it commands.

While proceeding down the bay from Warren Point to Carlingford, the tourist will enjoy a very agreeable treat. This splendid sheet of water, which presents in its outline the figure of an oval, is sheltered on the north-east and south-west by lofty and picturesque mountains, which may be compared to a twin brother and sister, stretching forward, as it were, to embrace each other; the Carlingford mountain having all the masculine boldness of the male, and that of Rostrevor all the softness and grace of the female. The Rostrevor hills, as viewed from the centre of the bay, are beautifully varied and verdant, being generally covered with plantations; while those of Carlingford are dark and ungenial in their aspect; but in form they are very much alike, their bases projecting considerably into the bay.

The maritime county of Down is bounded on the east and south by the Irish Sea, on the north by the county of Antrim and the bay of Carrickfergus, and on the west by the county of Armagh. This county, together with a small portion of that of Antrim, was anciently called Ulidia, a designation—according to some writers—derived from a distinguished Norwegian chief of that name, who flourished here anterior to the Christian era. This appellation, it appears, was subsequently bestowed on the whole province of Ulster. The first settlement of the English in this part of Ulster took place so early as the year 1177, when John de Courcy, one of the most daring and unscrupulous of the adventurers who accompanied Strongbow to Ireland, marched from Dublin with some twenty-two men-at-arms and 300 soldiers, and arrived at Downpatrick without the slightest interruption from any quarter. Having, after some time, established his power and potency in this quarter, he, like many of the great English barons, felt highly incensed and indignant at the manner in which King John had not only usurped the throne to which his nephew, Prince Arthur, was the undoubted and legitimate heir, but had even imbrued his hands in the blood of that innocent prince. He, therefore, being a man of a violent and hasty temper, so far forgot his allegiance as to render himself remarkable for the strong and unmeasured terms in which he spoke of the turpitude of the king. The consequence was, that the outraged monarch, in order to punish his arrogant imprudence, of which, doubtless, he was duly informed, sent orders to Hugh de Lacy, whom he had just appointed Lord-Justice, to have him arrested and brought over to England in chains. From the rivalry which had long existed between these powerful barons, the historian assumes that the mandate of the sovereign was

by no means unwelcome to De Lacy, who lost not a moment in endeavouring to execute the commission. The viceroy, after repeated attempts, finding it impossible to reduce the turbulent baron by force of arms, published a manifesto in the king's name, declaring De Courcy a traitor to his sovereign, and a rebel to his commands, and offering a reward to whosoever should arrest and bring him forward dead or alive. This reward some of the proscribed earl's own household were base enough to earn, as he was arrested on Good Friday by some of his personal attendants, while in the act of performing the solemn and penitential duties in keeping with the sanctity of the day; and brought to De Lacy, who, after giving the promised reward, ordered them to be instantly hanged. The lieutenant himself immediately set out with his prisoner to England, and presented him to the king, by whose order he was confined in a dungeon. As a reward for his services, De Lacy received from his royal master all the lands which belonged to De Courcy in Ulster and Connaught, together with the title of Earl of Ulster.

Some historians, speaking of De Courcy, describe him as being one of the bravest, but at the same time one of the greatest tyrants that, from the first introduction of the English, ever appeared in this country. It has been stated that, on his being restored to liberty and fortune, he made several attempts to reach Ireland, but was baffled on each occasion by contrary winds. In his last effort, it appears, he was cast upon the shores of France, where he died in the year 1219. The stories told of his adventures in England subsequent to his arrest—such as his acceptance of the challenge of the champion of France, and his display of prowess in the presence of the two kings—are considered by some historians, including Moore, as not only fables in themselves, but wholly at variance with known historical facts. That he did not succeed in regaining the royal favour, to anything like its full extent, may be inferred from the fact that, although he left a son to inherit his possessions, both the title and the property of the Earldom of Ulster continued in the tenure of his rival, Hugh de Lacy, on whose death they became vested in Walter de Burgo, who was married to De Lacy's daughter. We find, however, that the name and dignity of the Anglo-Norman knight, John de Courcy, notwithstanding the alienation of the title of Earl of Ulster and the territorial possessions appertaining to it, was upheld by one of his descendants, who, in after years, was created Baron of Kinsale, which title, as well as the name, is still preserved, together with the privilege claimed by the representative of this ancient house, to wear his hat in the presence of royalty.

The town of Downpatrick, which derives so much of its celebrity from the patron saint of our island, is built upon a number of small elevations, on the shore of the western bank of Lough Cone, otherwise Strangford Lough, and may be said to consist of four principal streets, which rise in a somewhat steep ascent from the centre, and are

intersected by several small streets or lanes. This town was at an early period divided into three districts, which continued, from ancient usage, to be designated the English, the Irish, and the Scotch quarters. There are some good public buildings in the town. The Court House, also called the County Hall, which was considerably enlarged and improved in 1834, is a handsome edifice, consisting of a centre and two wings. The county jail, erected in 1830, at an expense of £60,000, is a very commodious building, which occupies an acre and a half of ground. The market-house, an old and plain structure, contains in the upper part some tolerably good rooms, in which the public business of the town is transacted. A charter of incorporation was conferred upon the town at an early period, as appears by letters patent of the year 1403, in the reign of Henry IV.; and the borough continued to send two members to the Irish parliament up to the time of the Union; since which it returns one to the imperial parliament. That, however, which more immediately excites the greatest interest in the mind of the visitor to Downpatrick is the ancient abbey, originally founded by St. Patrick, which, although greatly changed in its appearance—more from the various outrages committed upon it by violent and irreverent hands, than even by the rude hand of time—is still an object of paramount importance in the eyes of the intelligent and enlightened tourist. This deep and absorbing interest arises from its venerable character, and the reminiscences connected with its history, and that of the glorious saint with which it is so closely identified; and also from the venerated Saints Bridget and Columbkill. We find that in the year 1609, James I. changed the name of this cathedral from that of St. Patrick, which it had long borne, to that of the Holy Trinity, its original designation, and which it continued to bear from its foundation until the year 1183, when John de Courcy changed it, and called it after St. Patrick, the patron saint of the isle. The people of Down, as we are informed, were greatly chagrined at the change thus made by De Courcy, and attributed all his subsequent misfortunes to this cause. The cathedral is situated on an eminence west of the town, and is a striking and stately building, supported externally by strong buttresses. It comprises a nave, choir, and side aisles, with a lofty square tower, at the western end, with pinnacled and embattled embellishments. A small square tower stands on each angle of the eastern gable, in one of which is a spiral stone staircase leading to the roof. The aisles are separated from the nave by lofty and elegant arches, resting on massive pillars, from the corbels of which spring the ribs that support the roof. The lofty windows of the aisles are divided by a single mullion; while the choir is lighted by a splendid east window, divided by mullions into twelve compartments. This appears to be the only window remaining of the grand edifice erected in 1412, and destroyed by Lord Leonard Grey. Over this magnificent window are three elegant niches with fine pointed arches, within which, on appropriate pedestals, stand

the remains of the renowned but mutilated effigies of St. Patrick, St. Bridget, and St. Columbkill. Besides the cathedral, there is in the town the Protestant church of the parish, a handsome edifice in the Grecian style, which was built on an enlarged scale in 1735.

The Catholic church of this place is an edifice also of long standing, having been erected in 1790. There are places of worship here for Presbyterians and Wesleyan Methodists, and several schools, supported by bequests, donations, and subscriptions. The county infirmary, a large and handsome building, comprising a centre and two wings, is situated on a gentle eminence at a short distance south of the town; and in the same vicinity is the Fever Hospital, also a large and commodious edifice, which was erected in the same year—the cost of both buildings amounting to a sum of £6,500. Of the several religious houses and ecclesiastical buildings which, according to the Four Masters, and other equally trustworthy authorities, were at early periods erected in Downpatrick, there are at present no remains. Besides the abbey founded by St. Patrick, there were the Priory of the Irish, founded in 1138 by Malachy, Bishop of Down; the Priory of the English, founded by Sir John de Courcy, and dedicated to St. John the Baptist; an abbey for Franciscan friars, founded by Hugh de Lacy in 1240; and an abbey for Cistercian monks, founded in the twelfth century by a member of the Bagnal family.

The small seaport of Strangford, which is situated on the western side of the channel that forms the entrance into the lough from which the town takes its name, being but eight miles from Downpatrick, can, without much inconvenience, be visited by the tourist. Among the remains of antiquity to be seen here are two ancient castles situated near the town, one of which, called Walsh's Castle, has been converted into a handsome dwelling-house.

Arriving at the fine, prosperous, borough town of Lisburn, which is a parish partly in the barony of Upper Massareene, county of Antrim, but chiefly in that of Lower Iveagh, county of Down, the tourist will notice many features worthy of his attention. This town derives considerable advantage from the Lagan Navigation Canal, which joins the river at a short distance from the town; while the Ulster line of railway, for which it forms an important station, confers additional advantages upon it. The streets, although not perfectly regular, are clean and spacious, the houses well built, many of them being of elegant appearance, and the shops large, and tastefully fitted up. The inhabitants are amply supplied with water of excellent quality, which is conveyed by pipes from works in the neighbourhood. The markets are held on Tuesday, and fairs on the 21st of July and 5th of October. The market-house, which is situated in the centre of the town, is a handsome building, with an attached tower of three distinct stories, enriched with finely-wrought columnar ornaments, and furnished with a public clock. In the upper part of this fine structure are commodious assembly rooms, the under part being appropriated to the sale

of butter and eggs; while fowls and other articles are disposed of in the ample square in front of it. Extensive shambles, corn-stores, sheds, and weigh-houses, for the use of the public, together with well-enclosed market-places for the sale of cattle and pigs, have been provided at the expense of the Marquis of Hertford, the proprietor of the town. There were three large flax and thread mills at full work in the town when I paid my visit, affording employment to a large number of persons. Some of these establishments belong to the great firm of Richardson and Company, of Belfast. The town has been for some years represented in Parliament by a native gentleman of that name. The house of Stewart and Sons is also extensive in the flax and thread manufacture. A branch of the Northern Banking Company has long been established here; and a savings-bank, which was opened in 1838. While here I visited a few of the factories, where the weaving of diapers and damasks was extensively carried on. Some of the webs were 90 inches wide, and of the finest character, whether as regarded the design, materials, or workmanship. Lisburn has been long celebrated for the superiority of its manufactures, which are generally disposed of in their brown state; and its linens and cambrics still maintain their high reputation; while the diapers and damasks are equally appreciated for their almost unrivalled beauty of pattern and firmness of texture. The Protestant church, which is the cathedral for the united diocese of Down and Connor, is a spacious and handsome building, with a tower and octangular spire. A new church was erected some years since in the northern part of the town, as a chapel of ease to the cathedral. The Catholic church is a handsome cruciform structure, with a pinnacled and embattled tower standing before the centre of the west end of the nave, and connected with it by a vestibule. It is a good house of worship, and with its galleries—one in the nave and in each end of the transept—is capable of accommodating a large congregation. The Castle Gardens, formerly the terrace ground of the ancient castle, are very nicely laid out, and kept in excellent order by the agent of the most noble proprietor. They are open to the public, and form a delightful promenade.

CHAPTER XIII.

BELFAST, CARRICKFERGUS, AND THE SHORE OF THE NORTH CHANNEL.

LEAVING the flourishing town of Lisburn, I proceeded to Belfast, on entering which I felt, as every Irishman having the interest and welfare of his country at heart must feel, unaffected pride and delight in witnessing its fine city-like appearance, and the unmistakable manifestations of commercial and manufacturing greatness which it exhibits. These distinguishing characteristics display themselves in its handsome streets and squares, its public buildings, including its religious temples, its warehouses, and its quays and docks, filled with ships from various places, including numerous and powerful steam vessels. The buildings, especially those of recent erection, are of rich and gorgeous appearance, with fronts of florid style and elaborate workmanship, almost peculiar to the town itself; while the warehouses approach in size and elegance the palace-like warehouses of Manchester; in fact, Belfast may be considered the Manchester of Ireland; while, from its extensive export and import trade, it may be called the Liverpool of the island. The majority of the modern buildings, both public and private, owe their richness and beauty of style and finish to the genius of C. Lanyan, Esq., a native architect, under whose scientific skill and direction they have been built. The intelligent stranger who visits Belfast feels even greater surprise at the rapidity of its rise to a place of such vast importance, than he does at its striking appearance, when, as he converses with inhabitants of long standing, he finds that much of what he now beholds and so much admires had no existence a comparatively few years since. When, after having derived information from oral sources, he proceeds to examine the details connected with its interesting history, he finds, as he advances in his research, matter to excite his fullest astonishment. This very important town, which may, with full justice, be considered the capital of Ulster, appears to have attracted but little notice as a town until the year 1316, when it, together with a castle said to have been erected by John de Courcy, was destroyed by Edward Bruce. The town and castle, which were subsequently erected by some of the neighbouring chieftains, were in the reign of Henry VII. again destroyed by the Earl of Kildare, at the head of a large army, in 1503. From

about this period Belfast remained in a ruined and neglected state till the year 1552, when Sir James Crofts, Lord-Deputy, repaired and garrisoned the castle. In after years this place experienced various vicissitudes, occasioned by the wars and strife of the Irish chieftains with the representatives of the English government, until the year 1612, when the castle and its appurtenances became forfeited to James I., who conferred them on Sir Arthur Chichester. In 1643, Charles I. appointed Colonel Chichester governor of the castle, and granted £1,000 for the better fortification of the town, which, while the people of the surrounding districts were making common cause with the Scottish Covenanters, alone retained its firm adherence to the throne. After the massacre at Drogheda Cromwell despatched Colonel Venables to reduce it, in which enterprise he fully succeeded. On the abdication of James II. the inhabitants sent a congratulatory address to the Prince of Orange, whom they afterwards proclaimed king. These demonstrations of attachment to William appear to have been gratefully remembered by that monarch, who, on his arrival here on the 14th of June, 1690, where he remained for five days, on his departure for the Boyne, issued an order to the Collector of Customs of Belfast to pay £1,200 per annum to the Presbyterian ministers of Ulster. This grant formed the origin of the more extensive stipend at present paid to that body. The castle, being destroyed by an accidental fire, in the year 1708, has never been rebuilt.

The trade of this port derived its first advantage from the purchase by the crown, in 1637, of the privilege possessed by the Corporation of Carrickfergus, of which Belfast was but a creek and dependency, which was that of importing merchandise at a far lower rate of duty than was paid at any other port. Soon after the completion of this purchase the Custom House of that place was removed to Belfast. From returns made in reference to the trade of this port, we find that at the commencement of the last century there were but five vessels, of the aggregate burden of 109 tons, belonging to it, while the amount of custom duties in 1709 did not exceed £1,215. In the year 1747, there were only three vessels, of 198 tons burden, collectively, employed in the cross-channel trade; but in 1785, when it became the principal depôt and centre of the linen trade, it rose rapidly into a port of considerable importance, and became well known on the Continent, and a place of repute in the eyes of the most celebrated towns in Europe It will be seen, by these few extracts from its local history, that up to a comparatively recent period Belfast was a place of little consequence, and the number of its ships at the time above mentioned, when contrasted with the number which belong to it at present, affords one of the most striking and extraordinary circumstances connected with the history of commerce. In a document on harbours, published by the Admiralty, it appears that the imports in 1850 amounted to £6,938,238; and the exports to £4,633,062. In 1852, the number of registered vessels belonging to the port was 455, and their aggregate tonnage 77,013.

The amount of custom duties received in that year was £377,329. The amount arising from port dues in the year 1851 was £30,759. There are two lighthouses and several beacons belonging to the port. There are forty steamers plying regularly between this port and London, Liverpool, Plymouth, Fleetwood, Morecombe, Glasgow, Ardrossan, Stranraer, Whitehaven, Dublin, and Londonderry. The most important branch of commerce is the cross-channel trade. There is also an extensive trade with the United States and Canada, the West Indies, the Mediterranean, the Baltic, Archangel, and, of later years, a limited trade with China. At this port great natural obstacles were overcome by the energy and spirit of the local merchants, whereby the shallow and difficult passage has been improved by the extensive cuttings which were completed in 1840, and vessels which were heretofore obliged to lie in the pool or basin at Garmoyle, about four miles from the town, are enabled to reach the quays and docks. In the channel there are 9 feet of water at low tides, while vessels drawing 16 feet can now come up in neap tides, and those drawing 18 feet at spring tides. The quays extend on each side of the river from the Queen's Bridge—a magnificent structure which occupies the site of the old bridge of twenty-one arches—to the entrance of the new cut, a distance of considerably over half a mile. This bridge connects the town with the suburb of Ballymacarret in the county of Down, and leads to the handsome station of the railway of that county.

There is another bridge over the Lagan, leading into the county of Down; and a third at some distance south of the town, in the direction of the Botanic Garden.

Three islands have been formed by the cuttings for the new channel, on one of which, designated the Queen's Island, near the town, an ornamental building, composed of iron and glass, has been erected. The surrounding grounds have been nicely planted, and laid out in handsome walks and parterres, and are largely attended in the summer season by the respectable inhabitants. Bazaars and fancy fairs are occasionally held in the light and elegant crystal temple, which are likewise numerously attended; strangers in Belfast generally visit this very pretty place. The ballast office, which is situated in the neighbourhood of the docks, is a handsome building, from the centre of which rises a square tower, containing a clock which shows its neat dial above the arch of the fine window that appears in each of its sides. A small octagon turret, with open arches and crowning cupola, surmounts the tower. The old Custom House, a very plain structure, situated in Hanover Street, has lately been replaced by one more in accordance with the character and trade of the town. The site upon which the new structure stands comprises an extensive area, each of the four sides of which measures 360 feet. It is situated at Donegal Quay, and contains, besides the chambers and offices of the Customs, apartments for the Inland Revenue, and post-office.

Glancing from the maritime to the manufacturing capabilities of

Belfast, the intelligent inquirer finds equal cause for exultation, and perceives that the promising infancy of 1785 has eventuated in a sound and healthy maturity, as in 1838 there were fifty steam-engines of 1,274 horse-power in the town. In 1841, there were twenty-five spinning mills in Antrim and Down, and forty-eight in all Ireland, numbering 248,000 spindles. There were, some two or three years since, thirty-three mills in the town and its vicinity, and in all Ireland seventy-six, numbering over 500,000 spindles; those in the town being worked by steam power, and affording employment to 32,000 hands. There are fine cotton-spinning factories in and near the town, containing 90,000 spindles. The other chief branches of industry are linen and cotton weaving, iron founding on an extensive scale, and bleaching. In addition to these there are print works, chemical works, flour-mills, oil-mills, alabaster and barilla mills; with saw-mills, distilleries, breweries, several tan-yards, a patent felt manufactory, rope and sailcloth manufactories, and flax steeping works. Fairs are held on the first Wednesday of every month, and markets on Fridays, besides daily markets for domestic purposes. There are three banks—the Northern, Belfast, and Ulster; and branches of the Bank of Ireland and the Provincial Bank. Much of the prosperity of Belfast has been attributed to the liberality of the banks, and the facility with which money has been obtained through them; this is more than probable, as we know that Scotland owes its prosperity principally to the same cause. The inland trade is carried on by the Lagan Navigation, which connects the town with Lough Neagh; the Ulster Canal, which connects Lough Neagh with Enniskillen; and by the Ulster, Ballymena, and County Down railways, which connect the town with the counties of Antrim, Down, Armagh, Tyrone, and Derry. Belfast lies low, being little more than 6 feet above the level of the sea at spring tides, notwithstanding which it is considered generally healthy, the air being pure, and the geological character of the town and neighbourhood favourable. The surrounding scenery is pleasing and diversified, and the views down the lough, in a northerly direction, picturesque and beautiful, the shores on each side being decorated with country seats and rich plantations. North-west of the town, at the distance of about two or three miles, rises a range of mountains 1,100 feet in height, variously designated Black Mountain, Squire's Hill, and Cave Hill. Divis Mountain, still nearer the town, is 1,567 feet above the low-water level of the sea.

The borough of Belfast was governed up to the year 1841 by a charter granted in the twenty-third year of the reign of George II., which was little more than a copy of the charter granted by James I. in 1613. The borough now returns two members to the imperial parliament, and is governed by a corporation elected by the five wards into which it is divided, each ward returning two aldermen and six town councillors. The supply of pipe water, which is obtained from a spring two miles south, and three large reservoirs one mile north of

the town, is under commissioners incorporated in 1840. The commercial buildings situated in the centre of the town, near the lower end of Donegal Street, are spacious and ornamental; the north front, which is of rich granite, being decorated by eight lofty Ionic columns, which give it a noble appearance. The White Linen Hall, an institution of equal interest and importance, is admirably situated, occupying the centre of Donegal Square, which forms on each of its sides a wide and handsome street. The entrance to the spacious quadrangle is by a capacious arch in the centre of the handsome building, which shows its front to Donegal Place, and which, as well as the whole of the range on this side, is composed of granite. This building, which is two stories in height, consists of a centre and wings, with a handsome tower, standing above the roof, in the second story of which is a clock, showing a dial on each of its four sides; the third story being surmounted by a rich cupola, supporting a ball and weathercock. There is also a depository for manufactured goods, called the Brown Linen Hall, on the south side of Donegal Street, which is largely attended on market days, when the country spinners and manufacturers are in attendance. The Corn Exchange, in Victoria Street, is a very fine building, reflecting equal credit on the architect and the public-spirited body to whom it owes its existence. The Northern Bank, in the same street, the Belfast Bank, and the bank buildings at the corner of Donegal Place, and the magnificent warehouse of Robertson and Company, are highly enriched and beautiful buildings, which remind the visitor of the splendid Manchester houses, while they almost challenge a comparison with them. There are several excellent hotels in the town, among the principal of which may be mentioned the Donegal Arms, the Imperial, and the Royal, all situated at Donegal Place.

At Donegal Street is situated the Protestant church dedicated to St. Anne, which was erected by the Marquis of Donegal in 1778. It consists of a nave and chancel, with a lofty Ionic tower of more recent erection than the church, surmounted by a Corinthian cupola covered with copper. St. George's Church—a chapel of ease—was erected in 1812, on the site of a former edifice called the Corporation Church, which had been built on the space occupied by the ancient castle. It is a splendid structure, consisting of a nave and chancel, with a magnificently enriched portico of six fluted columns and four fluted pilasters, supporting a cornice and pediment, in the tympanum of which appear the arms of the united sees of Down and Connor, and also those of the town, in *alto-relievo*. This splendid specimen of Corinthian architecture was removed from the front of the palace built by the Earl of Bristol, when Bishop of Derry, on the shore of Lough Beg, the materials for which were quarried from the Derry mountains, and worked by Irish artists. There are several other churches of the Establishment in the town.

The Catholic cathedral, erected in 1811, is situated in Donegal

Street, and is adjoined and flanked on one side by the palace of his Lordship, the Right Rev. Dr. Denvir, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Down and Connor; and on the other, by the large building in which are contained schools, that are under the care and direction of his lordship. One of these schools is a seminary where respectable youths receive a classical education, and is presided over by the Rev. Father Kelly, one of the bishop's curates. In other parts of the building are held schools for male and female children, which are in connection with the National Board of Education. The cathedral, although a comparatively plain building, may be called a handsome church, of oblong form, in the later English style of architecture. It is entered by a large door, in the centre of a handsome projection, which stands before the principal front, with a fine window on each of its sides. The new Roman Catholic church, a spacious building, composed of fine brick, with door jambs, window-edgings, quoins, and other ornamental decorations of rich granite, is situated in a fine open space, at some distance south-east of Donegal Square. The external appearance of this church, although not strictly ecclesiastical, is still grand and imposing; while the interior is of lofty and elegant proportions, and the groinings and ceilings strikingly beautiful. A convent of the devoted Sisters of Mercy has some years since been established in this town. Among the very many houses of worship belonging to the Presbyterian congregations, I noticed one in the immediate vicinity of Donegal Square; and another at the handsome, recently-built terrace near the Court House. They are, in general, enriched with nice porticoes, formed by Doric and Ionic columns and pilasters; and impress the visitor with a lively notion of the wealth and zeal of their respective supporters. My attention was directed to one in particular, which is considered to be one of the most beautiful of the kind to be seen in Belfast. This rich and ornate edifice was built, for what is called the Third Congregation, in 1831, at an expense of £10,000, by Mr. Miller, a native and resident architect. The front is enriched with a magnificent Grecian portico, of ten lofty columns, resting on a basement approached by some twenty steps, and surrounded by a beautiful balustrade, decorated with exquisitely delicate and light open work, which gives it a peculiarly graceful and pleasing appearance. There are several places of worship for Wesleyan Methodists in the town, among the most striking and beautiful of which is that at Donegal Square, which occupies the site of one of the same denomination which was burned some years ago. The portico, formed by six beautiful columns, with Corinthian capitals, supporting a cornice and pediment, cannot be surpassed for chastity and elegance by anything of the kind in Belfast. Independents, Baptists, Quakers, Unitarians, and Mormons have houses of worship here. Among the educational establishments the Queen's College claims the first place. It is enviably situated about a mile from the centre of the town, and on its erection stood considerably apart from it; but the advancing

town has made giant strides towards it, and a few years, no doubt, will find it enclosed within its encircling precincts; already the gas-lamps, under the control of the Lighting Committee, extend thus far. This magnificent institution stands in the centre of a fine park, many acres in extent, the area in front forming a rich and verdant lawn; while the more extended grounds in the rear afford ample exercise for the professors and students. It is a splendid structure, in the highly-enriched Elizabethan style of architecture, built from the design of C. Lanyan, Esq., the native architect already mentioned. It is composed of rich brick, with ornamental dressings of pure granite, and consists of a centre and side wings, which, as viewed from the rear, display three sides of a slender oblong. On each extremity of the centre rises a tower, supported on each side by panelled buttresses gradually diminishing, and ending in rich turrets with pinnacled decorations. Some of the windows form semi-hexagon projections, and are graced with elegant balconies, that exhibit in their style and embellishment the greatest richness and beauty. The college is entered by a noble arch in the grand central tower, which leads into the entrance-hall, a spacious apartment, that impresses the visitor with an exalted notion of the sublimity and grandeur of the interior. The examination-hall and library are splendid chambers; the former is enriched by a magnificent Scriptural painting, and displays from its lofty cornice the red cross of England and the arms of Ulster. A light and beautiful piazza extends along the entire of the rear of the central range, which in wet weather affords a healthful and agreeable promenade. At a short distance north of this institution is the Presbyterian College, a handsome oblong building, composed of a centre and wings, with a lofty portico, formed by four rich columns. The grounds appertaining to this establishment are large and ornamental. The Botanic Gardens, situated at a short distance beyond the Queen's College, and on the bank of the river Lagan, are well laid out, and embellished with the rarest shrubs and beauteous flowers. They comprise about seventeen acres of land, and, with their intersecting walks, and their proximity to the town, afford delightful recreation to the inhabitants.

The Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb and Blind—an elegant edifice erected in 1845, at an expense of £11,000, raised by private subscription—is situated in this part of the town, and affords shelter and protection to 100 patients. It is in the Tudor style, and composed of nice brick, with quoins, edgings, and other ornaments of pure granite. The union workhouse is also situated in this section of the town, and, with its adjuncts—a fever hospital and large school-house, both detached—may be considered a very capacious institution. The Lunatic Asylum, for the district of Antrim and Down and the county of the town of Carrickfergus, is a noble institution, capable of affording accommodation to nearly 300 patients. It is situated on an eminence, about a mile from the town, and was erected in 1829, at an expense,

including furniture, of £25,000. The County Court House, a magnificent building, is situated in a healthful part of the town, immediately opposite the new prison, with which it has a subterranean communication. The appearance of this fine structure is really beautiful, and reminds the visitor of the great St. George's Hall in Liverpool, which in some respects it resembles. The portico, formed by Corinthian columns, with very rich capitals, and by pilasters of the same order, also enriched with fine capitals, stands upon a basement approached by some half-dozen steps, and supports the deep entablature, surmounted by a handsome pediment, in the tympanum of which are displayed the royal arms, and on the apex a figure of Justice, with the sword and balance. The assizes for the county of Antrim have been held within this building since the year 1850. The new prison, modelled on that of Pentonville, in London, and capable of containing 300 prisoners, is delightfully situated, and by its rich and pleasing appearance conveys the gratifying assurance that the condition of the unfortunate persons who are doomed to incarceration within it is not uncared for. The prison and the adjoining grounds comprise an extensive area, the former being surrounded by a high boundary wall, and the latter by a handsome latticed railing, within which appears a fine verdant sward, enriched with ornamental shrubs. This is now the jail for the county of Antrim, the prison of the borough of Belfast being that of the county of the town of Carrickfergus. Among the charitable institutions of this town, the Belfast Charitable Society stands deservedly high. The establishment, founded under this society as a place of refuge for decayed inhabitants who had seen better days, and the children of such, is situated on a healthful elevation at the head of Donegal Street, and contained, on the 1st of November, 1853, 120 old people, and 96 children, who, together with a steward, matron, schoolmaster, schoolmistress, gate-keeper, and servant on wages, made a total of 222 persons. The building forms three sides of a large quadrangle, composed of fine brick, with ornamental dressings; and the front, which displays two stories, is entered beneath a handsome portico, formed by Doric columns and pilasters, which support an entablature, surmounted by a pediment. A fine lawn, with a handsome gate-lodge, stretches before the ample front, and is surrounded by a neat and substantial wall of solid masonry, with a coping of cut stone. Nearly opposite this institution is the Lying-in Hospital, a square building, with an ornamental front.

In thus noticing the important town of Belfast, it is a source of regret to me that my space will not admit of my being more circumstantial regarding it, as I look upon it to be a place that holds out a bright example to most parts of Ireland, in showing what may be accomplished by self-reliance, energy, and persevering industry. To these inestimable qualities, and to the liberality of the monetary establishments, the Belfast merchants and manufacturers may be said to owe their entire success. Persons from other portions of the island

would derive more or less advantage by visiting this town, were it only that they might witness the unceasing activity and aptitude for business which are here rendered perfectly manifest. In Belfast, the listless, lounging character, so frequently to be met with in other localities, is nowhere to be seen; the shrewd and intelligent natives ever evincing in their gait and appearance an eager anxiety, by promptitude and attention, to ensure success in their respective undertakings, each endeavouring to better his condition by attending to his own proper business.

The ladies of Belfast are remarkable for their good looks, as are the women of the north of Ireland in general, many of them being eminently beautiful. They differ in some respects from their sisters of the south, inasmuch as there is about them an air of stateliness and reserve which is superinduced, perhaps, by the semi-puritan character of their early education, which, as well as their religion, they have borrowed from their Scottish neighbours. This, however, by no means diminishes the interest they excite in the breasts of their beholders. In the youthful females of the south and west, even of the upper class, a stranger can at once discover the light-hearted gaiety which is the distinguishing characteristic of our country. This may be recognised in their sylph-like carriage, and their radiant looks, but is by no means at variance with the high-toned moral purity which has ever been accorded to them. In the domestic circle the semblance of reserve in the northern lady may be said to disappear, as in the dispensation of hospitality the genuine Irish heart at once discloses itself. Of this, even in my brief sojourn, I had some opportunities of forming a judgment.

From Belfast the tourist may, with great facility, proceed to the ancient town of Carrickfergus, which is a maritime county of a town, and a parliamentary borough, 10 miles from Belfast, and about 112 from Dublin. It is situated on the north shore of the capacious bay from which it takes its name, or, as it is also called, Belfast Lough; and surrounded on all sides by the county of Antrim, of which, up to a recent period, it was the county and assize town; but its ancient claims to this distinction have been superseded by the paramount pretensions of its powerful neighbour, Belfast, to which, within the last few years, the assizes have been transferred. The jurisdiction of the county of Carrickfergus comprehends a district of 26 square miles, or 16,700 acres, with a population approaching to 9,000. There are about 129 acres within the town, and a population of about 4,000. It was formerly a place of considerable mercantile business, having peculiar privileges conferred upon it, which were annulled in 1637. The trade of the port at present is confined chiefly to that of coal, corn and other commodities being shipped from the neighbouring ports of Larne and Belfast. The harbour being limited and defective may in some measure account for its having fallen off as a place of general business. It is formed by a pier, extending in a westerly

direction from the base of the great castle, to a distance of nearly 500 feet, and within about 400 feet of low-water mark. Even at high water it affords only a depth of 8 or 9 feet, so that vessels of more than 100 tons cannot approach the quay. It is also subject to the inconvenience of being sometimes lessened in depth by the accumulation of mud and sand. The principal advantage at present derived, in a maritime point of view, is from the fisheries, which are tolerably productive, and in which a considerable number of the inhabitants find employment.

A handsome pier was erected for the use of the fishermen in the year 1834, at an expense of £2,600, defrayed partly by the government, and partly by subscription. Carrickfergus never attained a high degree of celebrity for the superiority of its manufactures. The linen, which was the staple trade, has, within the last seventy years, been superseded by that of cotton, for which there are at present spinning factories in the town; and many persons are engaged in weaving checks, ginghams, barracans, and other cotton goods, for the manufacturers of Belfast and Glasgow; but, from the inferiority of the fabrics, good wages cannot be realised. The incorporation of this town as a county in itself is, by tradition, ascribed to King John; but, although it existed as a separate county long prior to the time of Elizabeth, the charter of the 11th of her reign is the earliest on record containing such incorporation. It also received a charter from James I., the boundaries defined by which differed in some respects from those mentioned in that of Elizabeth. Since the year 1841, when the alterations in small boroughs were made by the Irish Municipal Corporations Act, it has been governed by a body of commissioners, who retain the custody of the corporate property, amounting to £330 per annum. The income of the borough, derivable from rates and corporate lands, amounts to about £800 a year, of which £600 are expended in repairs, cleansing and paving the streets, and salaries and pensions to municipal officers; and the residue appropriated to general improvements. Thus circumstanced, the town presents a comfortable appearance, the streets being tolerably regular for so old a town, and the houses, in general, good. The best part of the town is that called High Street, situated near the water's edge, the eastern end of which forms an extensive oblong, where there are some handsome shops, with the principal hotel, the Court House, and market-house, or town-hall. The jail, an old and sombre-looking building, situated immediately north of the Court House, is at present used as a prison for the county of the town, and the borough of Belfast.

The Protestant church, anciently a Roman Catholic temple, dedicated to St. Nicholas, which appears to have been an adjunct of the Franciscan monastery formerly existing here, stands within the old churchyard, on a moderate elevation, in the centre of the town. It is a massive cruciform structure, with an attached tower, from the summit of which rises an octagonal spire, supporting a ball and richly-gilt

cross. The nave of this ancient edifice, which is said to have been built on the site of a Pagan temple, is about 90 feet in length, and the choir, including the tower, 60 feet; the transept being 45 feet long. The nave is supported on each angle by a strong buttress, and its sides furnished with six Gothic windows; while a large window of the same style occupies the chancel end. The choir is lighted by a window in each of its sides, similar to those which occupy the sides of the nave, and by another of smaller dimensions. The north transept has recently undergone restoration, and to some extent alteration, and, therefore, exhibits in its appearance a style somewhat different from that which characterises the other parts of the church; it is lighted by two lancet windows. In the end of the south transept is a square window, divided by four mullions, and in each side is one of the same character, of three compartments. Each gable of the transept, like that of the nave, is surmounted by an ornamental cross. The interior is very beautiful, and the grand east or chancel window enriched with stained glass, representing the Baptism of our Blessed Saviour by St. John; the Holy Ghost, in the shape of a dove, appearing in the heavens above them. This most sublime and sacred subject is magnificently portrayed, and is a mastely effort of artistic skill; while its effect on the beholder is at once impressive and awe-inspiring. Several ancient monuments are to be seen here, among which is one to Mr. Dacy, twice mayor of the town, which bears date 1626. One of the grandest mural monuments which I have seen is that in the end of the north transept, called Lord Donegal's Aisle. It occupies the entire gable, and comprises two stories, one of which is supported on each side by coupled columns of the Ionic order, and the other by a like number of Corinthian columns, with highly-enriched capitals. On the front are represented a lady and gentleman in a kneeling posture, one on each side of a deceased infant, who is represented as lying in an open coffin; the afflicted parents, with clasped and upraised hands, exhibiting signs of piety and unaffected grief. The shield and coat of mail, as it would seem, of the knightly mourner, the faded memorials of chivalry and heroism, now in the last stage of decay, hang on each side of the monument. The last-mentioned warlike appendages are not the work of the sculptor's chisel, but the frail remnants of bygone reality. In passing through this aisle I trod lightly and thoughtfully, having heard from the person in charge of the church, that the last remains of the pride and hope of the house of Chichester, the youthful Earl of Belfast, had been deposited in the vault beneath three days before; his body having arrived from Naples, where, in the twenty-first year of his age, he fell a victim to the small-pox. Another scion of this noble house had recently become a tenant of this vault, the remains of Lord Edward Chichester having been placed therein about five weeks previously. This aisle has long been the exclusive property of the Chichester family, but having fallen into a dilapidated condition, it was divided by a party-wall from the rest of the church.

In the year 1830, however, it was given to the parishioners by the Marquis of Donegal, the head of that family, and has been fitted up with free seats for the poor; the vault beneath being still reserved as the burial-place of this illustrious family.

The Catholic church is situated on an elevation in the eastern part of the town, and is a neat but plain oblong edifice, the east or altar end being surmounted by the sacred symbol, the cross. The altar is nicely decorated, and the body of the church furnished with seats and kneeling places. The neat residence of the parish-priest is situated immediately west of the church; while in the rear of both is a nicely laid out cemetery. Within the avenue leading to this interesting place of worship, a National school had been lately erected, and opened for the education of the children of the town, and was very well attended by those of different religious persuasions. There are houses of worship for Presbyterians and Wesleyan Methodists in the town. By far the greatest feature in Carrickfergus is its ancient and grand castle, which is considered one of the noblest and most perfect fortresses of the olden time now remaining in Ireland, and which, in those early days, must have been deemed almost impregnable. Its naturally strong situation—based as it is on a rock which extends, in a semi-oval shape, into the estuary or bay, and being surrounded for the most part by the sea at high water—renders it, when fortified by art and skill, a very formidable place. The rock upon which it stands is 30 feet high at its southern extremity, but declines considerably towards the land. It is entered from the north-western or land side by an arched gateway and massive door, with a portcullis which instantaneously operates as a barrier against surprise or hostile intrusion. The doorway is flanked on each side by an immense semicircular tower, with all the appliances that engineering skill could devise to repel the assault and entrance of an enemy. A high and strong boundary wall, with embrasures for artillery, surrounds the entire fortress. The curtain, which on the north side extends between the semicircular tower on that side and the square tower which stands on the north-eastern extremity of the curving wall, is mounted with seven guns. In the rear of the rampart on which these guns are planted are the officers' quarters, the hospital, and the quartermaster's stores. On the eastern rampart are planted a similar number of guns, the space in the rear being the inner boundary wall of the castle. On the south-eastern extremity of the outward wall is another square tower, which, like that already mentioned, has an embrasure parapet, and is loop-holed for musketry. That part of the curtain extending from this point to the western semicircular tower is lined with embrasures and mounted with guns, which command the shore and the town. The barracks for the ordinary force of the garrison lie chiefly in the rear of the rampart on this side, and are capable of accommodating two companies of infantry and a limited number of the artillery. The principal keep or castle is a large square tower of

massive proportions, the walls of which are 9 feet. thick; the lower part, being bomb-proof, contains the magazine. In the third story is a spacious apartment 40 feet in length, 38 in breadth, and 26 in height, called Fergus's Drawing-room. The side which faces the barracks has five arched windows in several parts of its broad face. There is a well in the lower story anciently celebrated for its curative properties. From the summit of the castle, which is about 120 feet above the level of the sea, can be obtained an enlarged and varied prospect. It was formerly governed by a constable, who had very extensive powers, but is at present under the control of a governor and a master gunner, assisted by a few artillerymen. It was at this time mounted with over thirty guns, chiefly 12-pounders, and a few long eighteens, which were about to be replaced by 32-pounders, a quantity of granite having arrived at the fortress preparatory to their being placed in position.

Carrickfergus, which is a place of great antiquity, is supposed to have derived its present name, which signifies the "Rock of Fergus," from Fergus MacErch, a chieftain of Dalaradia, who established the first settlement in Caledonia in the fourth century. According to Buchanan, the Scotch historian, this town derives its name from Fergus, the son of Ferchard, who was chosen King of the Scots and Picts about 330 years before the birth of Christ. An ancient record, mentioned by Dr. O'Connor, states that St. Patrick blessed a town or stronghold of the Dalaradians, in which was a well of miraculous efficacy called Tipra Phadruic, the well of St. Patrick. It is not known with certainty at what time the castle was originally built; but the present castle, from its style of architecture, is generally supposed to have been erected soon after the arrival of the English. We are informed that King John, who, during his father's lifetime, bore the titles of Earl of Moreton and Lord of Ireland, visited this country, and made a grant to John de Courcy of all the lands he might conquer in Ulster. His despatch to the king, in which he mentions his having taken the castle, dated at Carrickfergus, is said to be still extant among the manuscripts in the library of Trinity College, Dublin. De Courcy, as we have seen, having fallen into disgrace with John, his castles and possessions in this country fell into the hands of Hugh de Lacy the Younger. From the contentions that arose among the English settlers, and the invasion of Edward Bruce, Carrickfergus suffered severely; and in subsequent years, especially during the Civil War of 1641, and the Revolution which placed William III. upon the throne of England, it was frequently the theatre of confusion and strife.

On leaving Carrickfergus for the Giant's Causeway, I travelled by public cars, which run from stage to stage along the shore of the North Channel; and was thereby enabled to enjoy and appreciate the greatest treat that the North of Ireland affords, and which, like Killarney and the Killery mountains, commands the marked notice and

attention of the Irish tourist. Proceeding by this route, the traveller will be called on to notice Island Magee, which forms a peninsula between Lough Larne and the North Sea. On this island, which contains 7,000 statute acres, with a population of about 2,000 persons, Edward Bruce landed in 1315; and on it Sir Moyses Hill, ancestor to the Marquis of Downshire, took refuge in a cave when pursued by the MacDonnells, who had slain Sir John Chichester. It is also rendered memorable by an act of atrocity disgraceful in the highest degree to the perpetrators of it—namely, the massacre, in 1642, of the Roman Catholic inhabitants by a number of Scottish soldiers, under the command of General Munroe. A lighthouse stands on the northern part of the island, which marks the entrance to the port of Larne. Among the curiosities of the island are a rocking stone at Browne's Bay, weighing twelve tons, and some curious caves at Gobbin's Cliffs, into which the tide flows. These cliffs are situated a little above low-water mark, under a basaltic rock 210 feet in height. Near the entrance to the peninsula are the remains of Castle Chichester, occupying a commanding situation on the bold shore. There are also the remains of two ancient churches on the island.

Arriving at Larne, I was somewhat surprised to perceive that about eighteen vessels—small schooners and smacks—were lying in front of extensive lime quarries, for the purpose of taking cargoes of the limestone to Scotland. This class of traffic confers vast advantages on the small town and neighbourhood, affording as it does employment to so many of the people. The reefs of limestone rock which are to be seen here appear almost inexhaustible, the whole of the curving shore being lined with such. It is quarried with great ease out of the face of the towering cliff, and is nearly as white in its raw state as that in other localities when coming out of the kiln. In many parts the face of the rocks at a distance reminds the traveller of Albion. The fine little seaport of Larne, which is a parish in the barony of Upper Glenarm and county of Antrim, is about 12 miles from Carrickfergus, and 124 from Dublin. It consists of the old and new town, and is handsomely situated on the edge of the lough that bears its own name. The streets in the old town are narrow and inconvenient: the new town, however, is quite the contrary, and consists of one long and regular street, in which there are several well-built houses and neat shops. There are places of worship here for Protestants, Roman Catholics, and Presbyterians, and a union workhouse, which is finely situated on a handsome elevation. There are to be seen in this neighbourhood the ruins of some ancient churches; and on the banks of Lough Larne the remains of the castle of Olderfleet, consisting of a massive circular tower, with several quadrangular adjuncts, also of great strength; the whole enclosed within thick walls pierced with embrasures, and presenting, even in ruin, a venerable and imposing appearance.

The small port of Larne was rendered remarkable at an early

period, being the point of debarkation of the army of Edward Bruce when he made his descent upon this country with a view of wresting it from the control of England, and taking upon himself the sovereignty of it. In the year 1314, when Scotland, under his brother, Robert, threw off the yoke of England, and when hopes were entertained by the people of this country that the time for their deliverance was not far distant, we find that deputations had been sent to the heroic Bruce, inviting him to become King of Ireland. Independently of the high renown he had acquired by his triumph over the English, he was considered, both by birth and marriage, to have high claims to leading and distinction in Ireland. Richard de Clare, Earl of Pembroke, commonly called Strongbow, having left behind him an only child, a daughter named Isabel, she became sole heiress of Leinster, in right of her mother Eva, and also of her father's large estates in Wales. Richard I. having made her his ward, and taken her under his own immediate protection to his court at London, in due time bestowed her in marriage on William Marshall, called the great Marshal of England, who thus became Lord of Leinster and Earl of Pembroke. This great nobleman had five sons, and an equal number of daughters. The sons, who inherited the title in succession, died childless; while his daughter Isabel married the Earl of Gloucester, and her grand-daughter, also named Isabel, was mother to the great Robert Bruce, who was therefore great, great, great grandson of Strongbow and the Princess Eva, daughter to MacMurrough, King of Leinster. We also find that King Robert, by his marriage with Ellen de Burgh, great grand-daughter of Hugh de Lacy, Earl of Ulster—whose father, the great Palatine, Hugh de Lacy, was married to the daughter of Roderic O'Connor, the last monarch of Ireland—had high pretensions as regarded this country. In lending a favourable ear to the overtures of the Irish deputies, besides the accession of territory, and, as a matter of course, power, which so fine a country would confer upon him, it is supposed that the King of Scotland was swayed by the consideration that in this enterprise a field would be opened for the restless ambition of his brother, who had already manifested symptoms of impatience at the inferior and subordinate position occupied by him, and who went so far as to advance a claim to an equal share with Bruce himself in the government of Scotland. Accordingly, on the 25th of May, 1315, Edward Bruce, with a fleet of 300 sail, appeared off the north coast of Antrim, and landed at Larne, then called Olderfleet, an army of 6,000 men; and being joined by a large number of Irish, he overran, with scarcely any resistance, the whole of Ulster. Arriving at Dundalk, which he stormed and captured, he caused himself to be crowned King of Ireland. Soon after this time, King Robert, having appointed his brother-in-law to conduct the government of Scotland during his absence, passed over to aid with his presence his brother, the new King of Ireland. He first arrived at Carrickfergus, which, after some resistance, surrendered

to the royal brothers; and there, having mustered an army of about 20,000 men, irrespective of their regular force, consisting of the northern Irish, they marched to Slane, and from thence to Castleknock, in the neighbourhood of Dublin. After some time consumed in marching their army from one place to another, without coming to vigorous or decided action, the royal brothers retired into Ulster. Having by this time been enabled, by personal observation, to form a just estimate of the chance there existed of establishing a durable dominion out of such materials as Ireland then afforded, the King of Scotland committed to his more sanguine brother the further conducting of the war, and, taking with him only the Earl of Moray, returned to his own dominions. In 1318, Edward Bruce took the field, and marched his army to a memorable place in the neighbourhood of Dundalk, where he was attacked by the English force under Lord John Birmingham. The conflict was as short and decisive as it was signally disastrous to him, whose ambitious career ended with his life on the ensanguined field of battle. In like manner ended the hopes of those who flattered themselves that, through the instrumentality of Bruce, Ireland would be severed from the rule and domination of England.

Passing onwards from Larne, the tourist will soon arrive at Carn Castle, which stands on a rock in the sea, about a mile beyond Ballygally Head, from which sublime views can be obtained, in which are included the Craig of Ailsa, and part of the Scottish land, and also the Maiden Lights, which are placed on two rocks of the same size and appearance; they stand about a mile asunder, and nine miles from the shore; and as the sun falls upon their milk-white towers, they appear very interesting objects; reefs extend on either side of them, beneath the surface of the sea, so that the mariner, to be in safety, must give them a good distance. At this place lime-works are also spiritedly carried on. Passing Carn Castle the traveller will notice an ancient baronial residence, formerly the seat of the O'Hallorans; and subsequently, Shane's Castle, a fine old structure. From this point the car runs beneath the side of an elevated rock, which, in the vicinity of Glenarm, forms a bold promontory, round which, at some pains and cost, has been carried the Antrim coast road, that in some parts is cut through the solid rock, and is 10 feet above high-water at spring tides. Glenarm, a very pretty little town, about ten miles from Larne, is situated in a deep glen, which opens to the sea, and on the banks of the Glenarm river, that empties itself into the bay, and is crossed by two nice bridges. It contains about 160 houses, and is much resorted to for sea-bathing. The harbour is small, and chiefly frequented by vessels from the opposite coast of Scotland, which bring coal and take back lime and articles of agricultural produce. Vessels can ride in safety, in five or six fathoms water, about a quarter of a mile from the shore. This small place is said to have been incorporated by King John, in the fourth year of his reign; but since the conquest of Ulster it has not exercised municipal privileges; fairs are

held here in the months of May and October. There are a handsome Catholic church here, a neat Protestant church, a Presbyterian place of worship, and a good school-house. Glenarm Castle has for many years been the residence of the MacDonnells, Earls of Antrim; one of whom, Randal MacDonnell, Marquis of Antrim, was attainted during the Protectorate. As at present constructed, it is a noble quadrangular building, strengthened and embellished on each angle by a handsome minaret tower, from the summit of which rises an ornamental vane, the whole contour reminding the visitor of the White Tower, which forms so striking a portion of the great fortress—the Tower of London. Between the angular adjuncts appears the large dome, which surmounts the central portion of the castle, and lights the spacious and lofty state apartments. The entrance that leads to the hall, which is of ample dimensions and grand appearance, is by a massive gateway. The demesne, which is finely planted and enriched with myrtles and other valued shrubs, contains, within a portion of it, the deer park, through which rushes a mountain stream, that afterwards flows through the lawn. Near the castle are some remains of an ancient Franciscan monastery, founded by Robert Bisset in the year 1465, which, after the dissolution of the religious houses, was granted, with all its revenues, to Alexander MacDonnell, Earl of Antrim. The present earl is highly deserving of all he possesses, being one of the best and most indulgent of landlords, who, during the repeated seasons of famine and distress, never disturbed a tenant, although, in many instances, there were five or six years of arrears of rent due to him. While listening to the unaffected detail of the hardy northern farmer from whom I learned these interesting particulars regarding this true noble of nature, I could plainly discern in the rising emotion, which could with difficulty be suppressed, the unmistakable emanation of a grateful heart. Leaving this exceedingly pretty place, we soon arrived at Carnlough, a distance of three miles, which is a very nice village, formed on the edge of the handsome little bay, and sheltered by lofty mountains.

This village is part of the estate of the Marquis of Londonderry, and its clean and comfortable appearance warrants the assurance that the most noble proprietor has not been indifferent or careless of its welfare. Great improvements were at this time being carried out at the instance of the noble marchioness dowager; and a tramway constructed for conveying the limestone quarried on her property to the bay, where a pier and quay were also being built for the convenience of boats and lighters to transport the lime to vessels for exportation. There is a handsome Roman Catholic church here. Running about four miles beneath the foot of a lofty mountain range, we arrived at Garron Tower, the grand and imposing seat of the Marquis of Londonderry, where the noble marchioness up to this time had been sojourning for the autumn and bathing season. Her ladyship was then about removing to England, a steamer having arrived at Larne on

this day, for the purpose of conveying her horses, carriages, and the other appurtenances of her household to that country for the winter. Garron Tower is a very conspicuous and commanding castellated building, based on the summit of a bold iron rock, which rises to a considerable elevation in a perpendicular form. It is flanked and sheltered on the south by a lofty conical mountain, which is planted to its summit, from which rises a flag-staff, occasionally displaying a rich standard. It is protected on the north by an immense rock, of comparatively barren appearance; while towering hills, rising to a great height, and also richly planted, shelter and, in amphitheatrical form, partially encircle it, and give a finish and completeness to the bold picture, which is of Alpine sublimity and grandeur. The castle itself has a very peculiar aspect, consisting as it does of a series of embattled towers, which gives it all the appearance of a modern fortress, combining an air of agreeable and elegant security. On the southern extremity appears a large hexagon tower, of elegant proportions and beautiful appearance, and partly in the rear of it, a square turret, from the summit of which rises a flag-staff. North of the hexagon structure is the ball-room, a magnificent chamber, with a large double window, which overlooks the channel; several other turrets and offices occupy the sloping northern side of the building; the whole forming an extensive range. A strong breastwork or curtain, not only pierced with embrasures, but even bristling with cannon, stands before the entire front of the castle, which faces the sea, and convinces the beholder that the reality, as well as the semblance, of defence, is here provided. It is decidedly the most perfect specimen of modern amateur fortification that I have seen. Perhaps its greatest charm in the eyes of its noble owner is the splendid marine view which it commands, as from its ramparts can be seen the entire North Channel, from the Lough of Belfast to the entrance of the Atlantic, beyond Rathlin Island. Portions of Scotland fall within this view, including the Craig of Ailsa on the east, the Mull of Cantire and Sanda Island in a north-easterly direction, while the Twin Maidens, and many other domestic features, enhance and enrich the prospect.

Rounding Garron Point, and running in a westerly direction, the tourist soon arrives at Glenariff, which is embosomed in lofty mountains, its front being open to the sea, into which falls the river, a mountain torrent, that rushes through the ravine which divides the closely adjoining mountains. The romantic appearance of this glen challenges a competition with the beautiful glens of the county of Wicklow. The adjoining village, called Glenariff Foot Water, is a really beautiful spot, consisting of about thirty houses and a very nice Roman Catholic church.

At a short distance beyond the village is a small safety harbour, sheltered by a pier of about 200 feet in length, where vessels are enabled to discharge their coal.

Advancing onwards, we soon arrive at Red Bay, with its small

harbour and ruined castle. A pier is about to be run out to some distance at this point, to afford protection to the harbour.

We next arrive at Cushendall, a very comfortable village in the parish of Layde, and barony of Lower Glenarm, about ten miles from the town of Glenarm. This small town, which contains about 100 houses, is beautifully situated within about a quarter of a mile of the sea, on the Glenagan stream, which falls into the bay immediately below the village. It is also intersected by the River Dall, over which a handsome stone bridge has been erected. The surrounding country is romantic and picturesque, and the coast, from its peculiarities, highly interesting to the geologist. Numerous caves of singular formation are to be seen on this shore, and are well worthy of being explored and examined by the curious visitor.

The Protestant church of the parish, a neat small edifice, is situated in the western extremity of the town. There is also a handsome Catholic church in the village, which, being of comparatively modern erection, presents a nice appearance. Here likewise are a neat market-house, and a small prison called Turley's Tower. Several fairs are held here in the year, which are well attended, and rendered remarkable by the large number of ponies with which they are supplied. This place is much frequented by persons visiting the Giant's Causeway, while the bay affords anchorage for vessels in from three to nine fathoms water.

The small fishing village of Cushendun, which is about three miles from Cushendall, is not unworthy of notice, as on this part of the shore, as well as at Cushendall, there are some large caves of curious construction. This little place is partly in the parish of Culfeightrin, and barony of Carey, and nicely situated on the small bay from which it takes its name, at the mouth of the river Glendun, and has latterly been much frequented, as a watering place, during the summer months. The harbour, which is formed by a pier, erected at the expense of the government, affords the requisite shelter, and vessels of about fifty tons burden can pass the bar. There are a good many fishing boats belonging to the port.

Leaving Cushendun, accompanied by some other travellers, I proceeded to walk with them over a considerable mountain height, for the purpose of lessening the burden on the horse in his ascent along the steep line of road. We considered ourselves, however, amply repaid for our toil in doing so, as it afforded us magnificent mountain views, including the grand range of hills which form in their declivities the seven North Glens of Antrim. In the neighbourhood of Cushendun a recently constructed bridge, exceeding 150 feet in height, spans one of the deep ravines called Glendun, which is formed between the lower parts of two of these hills; this bridge is a continuation of a new line of road. The county of Antrim abounds in hills, but those which here come under observation appear to be some of the highest of them.

Arriving at Ballycastle, I was much struck with its admirable situation and general appearance, standing as it does at the head of the bay to which it gives its name, opposite Rathlin Island, and in a valley at the foot of a lofty mountain, called Knocklayd, which shelters it on the south. It consists of two divisions—the upper and lower town—which are about a quarter of a mile from each other; and is situated in the parish of Ramoan, barony of Carey, and county of Antrim, about 158 miles from Dublin. The intervening distance between the upper portion of the town and that bordering on the shore or quay is planted on both sides with beautiful trees, which, from their sheltered situation, have attained a fine growth, and present a luxuriant appearance. The houses in general are well built, and in both sections of the town several of them, as well as the shops, are of a superior character for a town of this class. The church, a chapel of ease to the parish church of the Establishment, is situated in the upper part of the town, and is a handsome edifice, in the Grecian style of architecture, with a tower, in which is a nice clock, and from the summit of which rises a lofty octagonal spire. The Roman Catholic church is also situated in this part of the town, and may be called a good house of worship. The National school adjoins this church, in which an average number of 100 pupils attend, of different religious persuasions. There is a neat Court House here, with constabulary and coast-guard stations. A new bridge was at this time being built over the Bona Margy River, three of the arches of the former structure having been recently carried away by floods.

At a short distance south of the town is situated the old burial-place of Bona Margy, in which are the ruins of an ancient abbey, some of the arches of which are in tolerable preservation, and exhibit marks of beauty and elegance of design. This is the burial-place of the earls of Antrim, whose vault, formerly a small oratory, has been recently repaired, and presents the appearance of a small chapel, surmounted by a neat cross. There are no manufactures carried on here, with the exception of a few webs of linen, which are woven in the houses of some of the neighbouring farmers. The market is on Tuesday, and a special market held on the first Tuesday of every month, which is largely attended. The fairs are held on Easter Tuesday, and on the last Tuesdays of May, July, and August, and also on the 25th of October, and 22nd of November. There are two excellent hotels in the town—the Antrim Arms, and the Royal Hotel.

Perhaps there is nowhere to be found a more striking instance of the difficulty of permanently overcoming great natural obstacles by artificial means than the circumstances connected with this port afford. We find that, about a century ago, so large a sum as £130,000 was expended in deepening and improving the harbour, and a further sum of £30,000 was laid out in the construction of a pier and quay; and so successfully were these projects prosecuted, that vessels of the largest burden were enabled to enter the harbour and trade to the

port. Such was the confidence inspired by the altered condition of the place, that efforts were made in 1730 to induce the Irish Parliament to convert it into a regular place of import and export; this proposition, however, was successfully opposed by the Irish Society and the corporation of Londonderry. Thus favourably circumstanced, it soon became a place of great commercial and manufacturing importance, and various works—such as glass-houses, salt-works, and breweries—were established, with warehouses suitable to its rising trade. In the parish of Culfeightrin, in the neighbourhood of the town, collieries were opened and spiritedly worked, the produce of which materially increased the commerce of the port. But while the people of the town and neighbourhood were rejoicing in their cheering and flattering prospects, a fatal and covert influence was at work to render abortive the praiseworthy efforts that were made for its improvement. The insidious enemy of their apparently well-founded anticipations was the encroaching sand, which silently and slowly, but not the less certainly, finally annihilated all their hopes by choking up the harbour so as to render it inaccessible to vessels even of a very light draught of water. The consequence resulting from this melancholy state of things was, the suspension of all the enterprising works which had been set on foot; the Custom House of the port has been converted to private use, the pyramidal furnace no longer glows with the fiery liquid convertible into the crystal vase, the salt-works have been abandoned, and even the brewery placed in abeyance. Vessels do not now visit the place, except in the summer season, when the few that arrive with coals can with impunity lie off the wild shore; and the fisheries are much less prolific here than they are on the more western and southern parts of the coast. The working of the collieries ceased with the closing of the harbour, and Ballycastle has little to boast of now, save the beauty of its situation, and the superiority of its houses, which were raised in better times. This place, in the Irish language, is called Ballycashlain, or "Castletown," deriving that name from a castle built here in 1609 by Randolph, Earl of Antrim, who was directed by James I. to raise "faire castels" at reasonable distances on his vast estates, that the country might be the more speedily civilised and reduced to obedience. There are some remains of this castle still to be seen. The monastery, founded for friars of the Franciscan order by Charles MacDonnell, in 1509, at Bona Margy, already mentioned, was one of the latest of those establishments founded in Ireland previous to the dissolution of religious houses. The remains of the church are the most perfect of these ruins. Some ornaments of gold were found by the side of a river near the town some years ago; and jaspers, opals, and valuable mineral substances, have occasionally been found near the sea-shore. While at Ballycastle, the tourist may avail himself of the opportunity to visit the promontory of Fair Head, which is very well worthy of the stranger's notice. It is situated about four miles north-east of the

town, three of which may be made by car, and the other on foot. In making this journey, I would advise my readers, especially ladies, to fortify themselves with strong shoes, as the passage over the mountain, although by no means bad for mountain ground, requires the feet to be well protected from the damp which generally pervades mountain districts, as well as from the face of the rugged rock itself. Arriving at the extreme summit, which is about 630 feet above the sea level, the prospect is really magnificent, comprising within it the bold iron coast which intervenes between it and Bengore Head, with Rathlin Island, the Mull of Cantire, the Isle of Islay, Sanda Island, and the mouth of the North Channel, in all its wild sublimity. The promontory itself is a great curiosity, rising precipitously from its strong sloping base, which is so constructed by the hand of nature as to defy the angry and roaring surge, which incessantly and furiously lashes and assaults it. Returning from the summit of the Head, I noticed in the centre of the encircling mountain some comfortable dwellings, the occupiers of which hold from six to twenty acres, for which they pay from 10s. to £1 an acre rent. The ground, for mountain land, seems good, and the surrounding mountain, which is open to the tenants in common, abounds in turf and heath.

Some of those writers who are anxious to establish for Ireland a claim to a very early and high degree of civilisation, among other proofs, refer to the coal-works of Ballycastle, in the county of Antrim, which, as they allege, have been wrought in times beyond the reach of the oldest tradition, and, as a matter of course, anterior to any period with which her authentic history makes us acquainted. They contend, that from the marks of ancient operations which these extraordinary coal-works exhibit, they would seem to have been carried out by some of the very earliest colonists of the country. In the Rev. W. Hamilton's letters relative to the coast of Antrim, we find the following observations in reference to the ancient coal-works of Ballycastle:—"The antiquity of this work is pretty evident from hence, that there does not remain the most remote tradition of it in the country. But it is still more strongly demonstrable from a natural process which has taken place since its formation, for the sides and pillars are found covered with sparry incrustations, which the present workmen do not observe to be deposited in any definite portion of time."

Proceeding from Ballycastle to the Giant's Causeway, the tourist obtains excellent views of the bold and rugged headlands that line the iron-bound shore, and of several prominent features, including Sheep Island, Carrickarede Island, MacAllister's Castle, a small fortress, situated on the verge of a frightful chasm; and the splendid ruin of Dunseverick Castle, formerly the seat of the O'Cahans, chieftains of the district, all of which possess characteristics of a peculiarly interesting and romantic description. Tourists in general who visit this part of Ireland call to the comparatively new and handsome town of Bush-

mills, which is situated near the mouth of the fine Bush River, which flows through the town, and from which it takes its name. The river is crossed in the centre of the town by a handsome stone bridge, and about 30 perches lower down by another of the same character. While here, I paid a visit to the distillery so celebrated for its pure malt whiskey, large quantities of which are annually exported to England, Scotland, and the West Indies. There is also a brewery in the town. It is likewise celebrated for its corn-market, where large quantities of grain are sold. This is, indeed, a very handsome and apparently flourishing small town, the houses being all well built and good looking.

CHAPTER XIV.

THE GIANT'S CAUSEWAY, LONDONDERRY, AND OTHER TOWNS IN ULSTER.

LEAVING Bushmills, the tourist will soon arrive at the Giant's Causeway, of which nothing can be seen until he arrives at the verge of the precipice from which the curving avenue descends to the all-absorbing natural curiosity. The surprise of the visitor becomes the greater as the whole scene, so sublimely grand and indescribable, bursts at once upon his view. No previously-conceived notions of this wonderful phenomenon can at all come up to the reality. In other localities, amid the grandeur of mountain and lake, prairie and forest, one is not so much taken by surprise, having to some extent been rendered familiar with scenes which bear some faint resemblance to them; but here you see objects the like of which you never saw before, and never can expect to see again. With these wonderful things man had nothing to do, the whole appearing as thrown together by the hand of the great Artist, to surprise and humble human pride and ingenuity. Although to the most ordinary observer they are replete with the greatest interest, it is only the man of science, the geologist, the well-instructed mechanic, and the profound philosopher, who can fully understand and appreciate them. From the detached hills called the Stookans can be obtained the best possible views of this highly-interesting place, which are decidedly some of the most sublime that can well be imagined; including the immense bay, with the numerous intervening capes and headlands rising to upwards of 400 feet from the level of the water beneath. While here, the obsequious guide, in his anxiety to show in full detail the curiosities so wonderful in his eyes, prematurely intrudes himself, and, by disturbing the train of thought by which the mind of the sensible and reflective visitor is occupied, commits unwittingly an outrage, which no after attention on his part can well atone for. However, he has you in his keeping, and you must submit to his direction. Before descending to the Causeway, the visitor will naturally pause, and beg for a moment's additional delay, to feast once more his eyes by looking upon the immense circular valley that lies before him, and which has little else to attract save its vastness and singularity of character. The first object, perhaps, to which the anxious guide directs attention is a small rock surrounded by water, and called the Highlander's Bonnet, from some

fancied resemblance which it bears to that favourite head-piece of the Scotch. The Giant's Amphitheatre and his Organ are well worthy of the tourist's notice, from the peculiarity of their columnar construction. The Chimney-heads, which, he informs you, were mistaken by the Spaniards, at the time of the Armada, for the necessary appendages of domestic comfort, and therefore bombarded by them, are a high and perpendicular range of basaltic columns. The Honeycomb and the Loom are equally curious and worthy of observation, as are Port-na-Spagna, or the Spanish Organ, and the lofty Pleaskin, 400 feet in height, with immense layers of columns from top to bottom. Amongst the minor curiosities are the Lady's Chair, which the guide invariably invites the visitor to sit upon, attributing to it charms of a peculiarly interesting nature. My Lord's Parlour is also pointed out by him as a curiosity. This appellation is but of modern derivation, and was given to a part of the Causeway on the occasion of a recent visit paid to this place by the Earl of Antrim, the owner of the estate of which the Causeway forms a part. Within this space, which in its conformation bears some resemblance to a small chamber, the noble earl and the interesting group who accompanied him assembled, when they agreed, in compliment to the lord of the soil, to call it thereafter by its present designation, and certainly it could not by possibility be called after one more worthy of respect and honour. The guide next directs attention to the King and his Nobles, the Horse's Back, and, ultimately, to the Keystone of the Causeway, to reach which, at certain times of tide, the visitor becomes saturated by the beating surge. These names, as may well be supposed, are merely fanciful, and cannot add much to the interest of the tourist, who finds ample food for a most insatiable curiosity in the number and variety of the objects which here present themselves. Some parts of the Causeway may best be described by being likened to the wood pavement to be seen in London and elsewhere, which is composed of piles of wood placed in a perpendicular position. Immense layers or columns of this description are placed beside each other, the upper ends showing a variety of forms, including triangles, squares, pentagons, hexagons, octagons, and some nine-sided figures, each fitting so close that even water cannot pass between them. They possess this peculiarity—that if one of them is disturbed from its proper place, another cannot be found, among the several thousands which surround it, that will properly fit in the same space. Some of the columns which are not embedded in the Causeway, but stand fully open to observation, as in the Theatre, Organ, and Loom, are 36 feet in height, and composed of several separate pieces, with, in some instances, twenty-eight joints in each. Should one of these joints be separated, as it may be by the application of a chisel or such-like instrument, a regular ball and socket are exhibited, such as may be seen in the limb of an animal; but if so separated, another piece cannot be found among the whole collection that will accurately fit in the vacant space. This is not

mere assertion, for it has been repeatedly experimented on by some of the cleverest and most ingenious men that this country has produced. Nor can there ever be a want of opportunity of testing these facts, as over 37,000 columns are open to examination.

This vast assemblage of columnar curiosities is situated between Port-na-Grange and Port Noffer, standing immediately west of Bengore Head, and of the verdant headland called Arid Snout, and within a mile of the most northerly part of Ireland. From the Stookans the road leads to the base of the Causeway, which extends in a northerly direction from the connecting promontory into the sea, constituting a pier of an irregular triangular form, the base beneath the cliff being 135 yards, the eastern side 220, and the western 300 yards long. As viewed from the footpath, it has the appearance of an extensive earthwork or embankment, forming an inclined plane. In some places it rises like steps of stairs, but in others it may be called level, the pavement formed by the tops of the perpendicular columns showing the construction and admirable arrangement of the great platform or roadway. The Causeway is divided into three parts of unequal size, the western being 380 feet in length, and but 16 in height, and is separated from the central compartment by a large circular dyke. The middle section, which is the shortest, consists of a magnificent group of lofty pillars called the Honeycomb, and is also bounded on the east by an excavation or dyke. Beyond this is the grand Causeway, which is about 700 feet long by 100 wide, that portion called the Loom rising to an elevation of 34 feet, from which it diminishes in height as it gradually approaches the sea, into which it enters some distance beyond low-water mark. About 300 yards of this portion of the Causeway is the Giant's Organ, that is 120 feet in length, and consists of sixty columns, of which those in the centre are 40 feet high, but those on the sides are lower. At the eastern extremity of the point called Port Noffer are the lofty columns called the Chimney-tops, four in number, which rise to a height of 315 feet. Near these massive basaltic specimens is the Theatre, consisting of three distinct colonnades, the successive tiers of which are separated by horizontal strata of basalt, the appearance of which produces a very pleasing effect. A little to the eastward is Port-na-Spagna, a perpendicular cliff, 326 feet high, composed of alternate layers of columnar and horizontal basalt, arranged with surprising regularity; but the most striking and picturesque cliff is Pleaskin, which rises above the sea in a gentle acclivity for more than 300 feet, and then ascends, in perpendicular form, 70 feet in addition to its summit. This remarkable headland is nearly 400 feet in height, and exhibits, in its various and distinguishable strata, the geological characteristics of the district. This bold and striking feature can be seen to the best advantage from the sea, for which purpose a boat is always in readiness at the well-appointed hotel of the Causeway. This well-regulated establishment, kept by Mr. William M'Naul, is a very fine house, where accommo-

dation can be afforded to about fifty visitors at the same time. I would strongly recommend the visitor to this singular place to avail himself of the advantage to be derived from the use of a boat, as many of the features in its vicinity, although they can be approached from the land—as, for instance, Port Coan or Coon—are seen to much greater advantage from the sea.

In the immediate vicinity of the Causeway is a very nice modern school-house, of a peculiarly neat and church-like appearance. In this vicinity, also, is the handsome seat of Sir Edward Macnaghten, Bart., called Dundarave, or Bushmills House. The mansion and demesne have recently undergone considerable improvements, as has the neighbourhood in general, including the town of Bushmills, which is a portion of the property of the excellent baronet. The Court House of Bushmills, a large and handsome building, was erected by the spirited proprietor some thirty years ago, who, in the year 1827, established a weekly market here, which is held on Tuesday. There are also five or six fairs in the year. The Protestant church, which is situated in the town, is likewise the parish church of Dunluce; while the Catholic church of that parish is also the church of the Roman Catholic inhabitants of Bushmills. There are also places of worship in the town for Presbyterians and Methodists, and a school under the trustees of Erasmus Smith's Charity. There are other schools in the parish.

Passing onwards from the Causeway, the tourist will notice the ruins of Dunluce Castle, which are situated on the margin of the sea, at a short distance from the road leading to Port Rush and Coleraine. They are rendered very remarkable by their extent and picturesque appearance, but show to the greatest advantage when viewed from the shore immediately beneath. The fortified parts occupy the summit of a rock that projects into the sea, and is divided from the adjacent cliffs by a deep chasm, over which extends an arch, forming the only entrance. The domestic apartments and offices, of which the remains are extensive, were situated on the mainland; and, although at a distance appearing a disjointed and massive pile, when approached more closely, display characteristics of symmetry and architectural beauty. Underneath the castle is a natural cavern, which forms a spacious chamber, the walls and roof of which are of coarse basalt.

This castle, the original foundation of which is not precisely known, constituted the residence of a chieftain named MacQuillan, who is described by the annalists as being brave, hospitable, and improvident. From his confiding and unsuspecting nature, it appears that he suffered the Scots around him to increase in strength, till at length they became sufficiently powerful to expel him from all his possessions; and Sorley Boy, brother to James MacDonnell, having obtained possession of the district called the Glynnes, soon made himself master also of this place. The head of this family was afterwards ennobled

by the title of Earl of Antrim. In the year 1642, General Munroe—who rendered himself and his army so infamously famous by the massacre at Island Magee, and who was the commander of the Scottish army in Ulster—with a party of his forces, paid a friendly visit to the earl, at Dunluce Castle, by whom he was hospitably entertained. But at the conclusion of the sumptuous repast, Munroe gave the signal to his armed followers, who instantly made the earl prisoner, and seized the castle; this act was followed soon after by the forfeiture of his possessions. Such an instance of domestic treason and gross violation of the sacred rights of hospitality is scarcely to be found upon record; it was quite in keeping, however, with the character that this general earned for himself in this country.

Passing onwards from this place, the tourist will obtain a view of the small seaport town of Port Rush, which is situated on the northern extremity of the county, and on a basaltic peninsula projecting about a mile into the sea, in the direction of the rocks called the Skerries of Port Rush. On the western side of the peninsula is the small and deep bay, the harbour of which has been rendered eligible for vessels trading to the port, by the erection of two piers or breakwaters, one of them 800 and the other 650 feet in length, with an entrance of 200 feet in breadth; the whole covering an area of about eight acres, with from 15 to 20 feet of water at the quays. On the plantation of Ulster it was made a creek of Coleraine, but latterly it has absorbed all the trade of that place, as the accumulation of sand on the bar of that port has rendered it dangerous, and, indeed, inaccessible.

Advancing from this point, the traveller will soon arrive at Coleraine, a very handsome town, favourably situated on the bank of the river Bann, about four miles from the sea. The river, flowing from south to north, passes through the town, and is crossed by a bridge, nearly 100 yards in length independently of its approaches, and 32 feet in breadth; with flagged footways on each side; this fine structure was built at a cost of £14,000. That part lying on the western or Londonderry side of the river is called Waterside, or Killowen; the larger and more important part of the town being situated on the eastern or Antrim side, and is intersected by several handsome streets which branch off in various directions from the spacious square, called the Diamond. The houses in general are large and well built, and the shops of corresponding dimensions, and very nicely fitted up. In the Diamond are pointed out a few houses of long standing, the oak framings of which were sent over ready made from London, at the period of the establishment of the new plantation of Ulster. The market-house, the upper part of which is the town-hall, stands in the centre of the Diamond, and is a handsome building, with granite groins, and string-course running above the first story. An octagon tower rises above the eastern end, surmounted by a neat cupola, with a clock, which shows a handsome dial in two of its sides. The Protestant church, on the Antrim side of the river,

consists of a nave, south aisle, and transept, and presents an ungraceful and singular appearance. A plain tower stands at the western end of the nave, in which there is a door, but the principal entrance is by a porch standing before the south or aisle side of the church. The arches which divide the aisle from the nave are very fine. There are five windows on the north side of the church, and in the side and end of the aisle one of two mullions, enriched with stained glass, and a very large window in the end of the transept. A wooden letter B, on the north wall of the building, marks the spot where a cannon ball struck the church in the year 1641; the crack in the wall caused by this shot is quite visible. The Catholic church on this side of the town, dedicated to St. Malachy, is situated at that part called the Commons, and is entered by a nice iron gate, surmounted by a characteristic cross. A strong and lofty embattled tower rises before the western end, with a fine coupled Gothic window in the centre of the front, and in the upper story a lancet-shaped window on each side. There is a door in each side of the tower which leads into the vestibule, over which is the organ-gallery. The interior of the church is commodious, and is furnished with neat pews. The altar stands within the chancel, which is divided from the body of the church by a splendid arch; the chancel window is of large dimensions, and of coupled Gothic character, as are also the well-proportioned windows, four in number, which light each side of the church. Schools for the education of male and female children, in connection with the National Board of Education, adjoin the church. On visiting these schools, I was much pleased with the admirable system of teaching, and the decorous and orderly conduct of the pupils. On this side of the town, also, are two plain Presbyterian places of worship, and a very beautiful new Methodist chapel, with an elegant porch, composed of Corinthian columns and pilasters, with rich capitals.

In Newmarket Street, in this section of the town, is the corn-market, an extensive area, enclosed by a substantial wall, with all the conveniences necessary for the buyers and sellers. A distillery, celebrated for the excellence of its manufacture, is situated in the vicinity of this market. The Protestant church, on the Killowen or Derry side, is a plain strong structure, situated within the burial-ground of the district, which is finely located immediately above the gently-flowing river, and commands a very beautiful prospect. The Catholic church in this part of the town is situated on a rich mount, and shows its handsome front to the east, in the centre of which rises two massive octagon columns, ending in embattled turrets. Between these columns is a beautiful large Gothic window, of a highly enriched character, above which rises a handsome pediment supporting on its apex a massive plain cross. Two windows of similar design, but of smaller dimensions, stand on each side of the central columns. The church is entered in its southern end by a lofty arched door, over which is a fine characteristic window, with a smaller one on each side.

The gable is decorated with an embattled range, while from the apex rises an ornamental cross, with a nice pinnacle standing on each angle, and another on each side of the gable between the angle and the crowning cross. The northern gable is lighted by one very large and by two smaller windows, and is otherwise ornamented in a manner corresponding with the former. The western side of the church contains five windows, and, like the principal front, is surmounted by a parapet supporting an embattled range. The interior is very beautiful, uniting very happily the useful and the ornamental. The neat residence of the parish priest, the Rev. Charles Flanagan, stands at a short distance north of the church. Within the avenue gate leading to this nice residence and adjoining church is a school, under the National Board, which is very well attended. There are places of worship in the town for Baptists and Independents; here, also, are some endowed schools. This town has been long celebrated for the superiority of its linen manufactures, especially for a fine description called by the appropriate name, Coleraines. The annual sales in this lucrative branch of trade are estimated at about £600,000. Considerable quantities of these goods are woven in the houses of the farmers of the surrounding districts. The Bann abounds in salmon, and the fisheries are rented from the Irish Society, at a sum of £1,200 a year. There are some good hotels in the town, one of which, the Clothworkers' Arms, is an excellent establishment.

Arriving at the renowned city of Londonderry, the tourist becomes struck with its fine wooden bridge, which forcibly reminds him of that of Wexford, to which, previously to the alteration of the latter, it bore such a strong resemblance. The stranger invariably has his attention directed to the city walls, which, independently of their situation and extent, are rendered memorable by the siege that took place in 1689, and which lasted for 105 days, exhibiting instances of constancy and courageous devotion under the most severe privations, arising from want of the common necessaries of life, equal to any which our history records. The walls and gates are kept in excellent preservation, the former being about 1,800 yards in circuit, 24 feet in height above the level of the street, and sufficiently wide to form an agreeable promenade. Of the latter, Bishop's Gate and Ship-quay Gate are the most remarkable; Bishop's Gate is richly embellished, being decorated on the inside above the crown of the arch with a finely-carved head of William III; while, in a corresponding situation on the outside appears a head of James II., encircled by a chain. In days long gone by, it was the custom for conquerors to shackle the limbs of their captives, but I have not read nor heard of an instance of the commonest felon having been chained by the head. One might excuse so strong an indication of vindictive feeling immediately following the period of a recent triumph; but, considering the length of time which had elapsed previously to the re-erection of this gate in 1788, such an exhibition can only be

looked upon as a gratuitous display of unnecessary ferocity, and is now, at least, at variance with the spirit of the age. Among the most conspicuous objects in the vicinity of the walls is the fine statue of the celebrated governor, George Walker, under whose command the besieged city was so bravely defended. This testimonial is situated on the central or western bastion, and was erected in the year 1828, by subscription, at an expense of £1,200. It is based on a square pedestal, upon the sides of which inscriptions, illustrative of the important event from which he derives his historical celebrity, appear. The shaft consists of a fluted column, of fine proportions, in the Roman Doric style, built of Portland stone, surmounted by a statue, 9 feet in height, of the distinguished governor, by John Smith, Esq., of Dublin. The monument is 90 feet in height, including the pedestal and statue, and is ascended by a staircase in the interior to the summit, which is surrounded by a neat railing. From the vicinity of this monument can be obtained excellent views of the surrounding country, including the new cemetery recently laid out on the side of an elevation adjoining what is called the Bluebell Hill, being part of the fine range on which the army of the discomfited King James was drawn up at the time of the memorable siege. From other parts of the walls can be obtained views of some of the best public buildings in the city, including the Protestant cathedral, the Catholic cathedral, at this time in course of erection; the Lunatic Asylum, the County Infirmary, and the Gwyn Institution; and also the neat Protestant church, the Catholic church, and the union workhouse on the eastern or water side. Some public and several private houses, of very neat character, are approached from the encircling walls; among which are some male and female boarding-schools, a Presbyterian place of worship, and a Methodist chapel, with a handsome front, enriched with Ionic columns supporting a cornice and pediment. The walls are embattled, and are still in some places mounted with guns; that called Roaring Meg, which appears to be about 18 lbs. calibre, is pointed in a westerly direction.

The Protestant cathedral, which is also the parish church, is a magnificent building, consisting of a nave and aisles, separated by fine stone pillars and handsome arches. It was originally of the later English style of architecture, but has lost much of its ancient character by subsequent decorations. It is over 200 feet in length and 60 in breadth; with a splendid pinnacled and embattled tower, standing at the western end of the nave, from which rises an elegant octangular spire, terminating in a rich cross at an elevation from the surface of the surrounding churchyard of 228 feet. On the outside of the city walls is a chapel of ease, a handsome rectangular building. The palace of the Lord Bishop, the Right Rev. Dr. Higgin—a large mansion, with a slightly receding centre and flanking wings—is finely situated opposite the Court House. Dean Gough, brother to the distinguished General Lord Viscount Gough, resides in a handsome large brick edifice within the city walls. The Catholic church, which occupies the site

of the monastery of St. Columb, is situated in the western part of the city, without the walls, in a street called the Long Tower. It is a commodious cruciform edifice, erected in 1786, that, with some alterations and additions subsequently made, is capable of accommodating a large congregation. The school of the Christian Brothers is situated in the same vicinity, at a short distance from the palace formerly occupied by the greatly-lamented prelate, the late Right Rev. Dr. Magin, the Roman Catholic Bishop of the diocese. This school is largely attended, and conducted on the soundest and most approved principles by the zealous and devoted brethren of this celebrated community. While here I had the pleasure of paying a visit to the Sisters of Mercy's convent, which is situated in one of the principal streets within the city walls. It is a magnificent house, built expressly for a hotel, and occupied as such by Mr. Birch, afterwards so celebrated as the proprietor of the *World* newspaper. It was at this house that the Right Hon. George Robert Dawson, brother-in-law of the great Sir Robert Peel, and a member of the government, and also at that time the representative for the city in parliament, made his memorable speech, in which he shadowed forth the contemplated emancipation of the Catholics; and from which, as I was informed, he was obliged to retreat, amid the yells and brickbats of his intolerant constituents. The drawing-room and chapel of the Sisters, both on the same floor, are splendid chambers, being some of the largest I have seen in any private house; while the upper stories, having been originally fitted up for the hotel, are admirably suited to the requirements of the numerous and pious community by which the mansion is at present occupied. The poor-school of the pious ladies of this convent is situated in the immediate vicinity of the spacious Catholic cathedral, then in course of erection, where I was much gratified with the admirable system of teaching, and the appearance of the children, which was exceedingly interesting, as, like the young females of the north in general, they were very beautiful. The rooms in this school, which was erected by the weekly subscriptions of the Roman Catholic parishioners, are lofty and commodious. The cathedral here mentioned—which was being erected under the direction of his Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. McLoughlin, Roman Catholic Bishop of Derry—the walls of which were at this time nearly up to their full height, will be, when finished, a splendid structure. The length of the nave of this fine church is 120 feet, and the chancel 38, each 25 feet in width; the tower being 23 feet long and 18 wide; making the entire length 181 feet. The north and south aisles are 120 feet in length and 18 feet wide; and the north and south side chapels 33 feet 6 inches long and 18 feet wide; while the sacristies are, one 15 feet by 15, and the other 15 feet by 21, all in the clear. The exterior walls of the side aisles are 30 feet high, and those of the cloisters 60 in height to the eave-course; while the height from the floor line to the point of the ridge in the clerestory of nave is 90 feet; and 82 feet from the floor to

the ridge in chancel. The western doorway in the tower is 22 feet high from the base to the apex of the arch, and 16 feet 6 inches wide; and the great west window 24 feet 6 inches in height to the springing of the arch, 13 feet from springing to apex, and 16 feet wide. The great east window is 47 feet high and 22 feet wide; while the south porch doorway is 13 feet 4 inches high and 7 feet wide. Besides the Presbyterian house of worship, approached from the wall, there are four or five others in the city; and also a second Methodist chapel, and an Independent meeting-house. Among the charitable institutions of the city, that founded by John Gwyn, Esq., a native merchant, who died in 1829, holds a high place. This valuable institution was endowed by him with a bequest of £42,000, for boarding and clothing as many poor boys as the funds were sufficient to admit of. To carry out his benevolent intention the trustees, twenty-one in number, purchased ten statute acres of ground near the infirmary, where they erected a very fine house and an ornamental gate-lodge, and have planted and laid out the grounds in a very neat manner. The Lunatic Asylum for the counties of Londonderry, Donegal, and Tyrone, is situated on a gentle elevation north of the city, and is an extensive building, consisting of a centre and two wings, which shows its front, of 364 feet in length and 25 feet in height, to the river; the entire depth, including its airing yards, being about 190 feet. Above the handsome centre rises a nice turret, the summit of which is crowned with an octagonal cupola. The grounds comprise about eight acres, including the plot in front, which is nicely planted, and a good garden. The original cost of the building was about £26,000.

This ancient city, which is an important seaport and parliamentary borough, is situated on a hill nearly 120 feet above the high-water line of the river Foyle, into which it projects on the western or Donegal side. The square in the centre of the city, from which the four principal streets diverge, is called the Diamond, in the middle of which is situated the Corporation Hall, a large and heavy-looking building. The Court House, situated opposite the episcopal palace, is a magnificent building, of oblong form, measuring 126 feet by 66, constructed of rich sandstone, ornamented with Portland stone, and showing a façade, consisting of a centre and two flanking wings, with a fine portico of the enriched Gothic order, modelled from the temple of Erectheus, at Athens. On the apex of the pediment stand the royal arms, the wings being surmounted by statues of Justice and Peace, sculptured in Portland stone. The jail, situated in Bishop's Street, outside of the city wall, is a handsome building of the kind, exhibiting a front of 242 feet, partly composed of stone, and partly coated with cement; the depth of the entire structure, including the several yards, being about 400 feet. It was erected in 1824, at an expense of £33,700.

The Custom House is a plain, and, for so considerable a port, a small structure; but the yards and stores connected with it are exten-

sive and commodious. A new corn market has been recently erected, which comprises a quadrangular area of 100 yards by 80, enclosed within a high and substantial wall, with three rows of sheds running the entire depth of the square. There are five separate gates in the front, and a very large one in the rear, which is entered from the quay. The central or principal entrance is by a lofty arch in the under portion of an ornamental building, the front of which is enriched with pillars and pilasters supporting a handsome pediment, above which rises a neat clock-tower, showing a dial to each of its four sides. A new slaughter-house has also been built a short time since in the north part of the city. It is of triangular shape, the base being 60 feet in length, and each of the sides about 50 feet. Along these lines are erected buildings divided into separate compartments, with nicely paved floors, in the centre of which are sewers for carrying off the water, of which there is a copious supply. Here the butchers are obliged, under a fine, to kill the several descriptions of cattle and animals for the supply of the markets and shops. Convenient stores are provided, where the goods are allowed to remain for a period of forty-eight hours; with watchmen to protect the premises, and carts to convey the meat to the shops or stalls of the respective dealers, who pay a small sum per head for the accommodation thus afforded them. The annual income of the corporation is about £700, of which £220 is paid for salaries and pensions to municipal officers; £270 for rents, rates, and taxes; £140 for markets and public works; and the remainder for miscellaneous expenses. Fairs are held on the 17th of June, 4th of September, and 17th of October. The principal market is on Thursday, but markets for meat and other necessaries are held every day in the week. The Bank of Ireland, the Provincial, the Belfast, the Ulster, and Northern banks, have branches here. There is also a savings-bank in the city. The port is formed by the river Foyle, which here expands into a spacious estuary possessing great natural advantages. Vessels of 500 tons can discharge at the quays, while small craft can proceed up the river to the village of St. Johnstown, a distance of seven miles; and barges, by a canal, to Strabane, fourteen miles from the city. A ship-building yard has been established here, at which several ships of large size, and latterly steamers, have been built. There is also a patent slip for repairing vessels, to which those of 800 tons burthen are admissible. The salmon fishery of Lough Foyle is very productive, upwards of 80,000 fish being taken annually, the greater portion of which is shipped for Liverpool. The trade of the port is steadily improving, the income arising from tonnage, anchorage, and pilot dues, amounting at present to a sum exceeding £2,000 a year. There are several good hotels in the city, among which may be mentioned the Imperial and the City Hotels in Foyle Street. It is supposed that this city owes its origin to the abbey founded here by St. Columbkill, according to the best authorities, in the year 546, and said to have been the first of the

religious houses instituted by that great saint. In 783 and 812, as we are informed, the abbey and the town were destroyed by fire; at the latter period, it would appear, by the Danes, who aggravated the horrors of the conflagration by the massacre of the clergy and students. In 983, the shrine of St. Columbkill was carried away by the Danes, by whom the place was three times plundered about the close of the tenth century. We find, from high authority, that the erection of a new church, on a grand scale, was contemplated by Flahertagh O'Bralchain, abbot of the Augustine monastery, on his elevation to the episcopacy in the year 1158; who, for that purpose, removed some eighty houses adjacent to the contemplated site, and enclosed it with a circular wall. Accordingly, in 1114, we find Temple More, or the Great Church, was built, the original abbey being thenceforward distinguished by the appellation of the Black Church. The new building, we are told, was 240 feet in length, and was one of the most splendid ecclesiastical structures erected in Ireland previous to the settlement of the Anglo-Normans. Its site was near the Black Church, outside of the city wall, and is now chiefly occupied by the Roman Catholic church and the adjoining cemetery. Both edifices were entirely removed by Sir Henry Docwra, governor of the city, in 1600, and the materials used in the erection of defensive walls constructed at that period. The belfry or round tower of the cathedral remained standing, however, till after the celebrated siege, and has given name to a street called the Long Tower. It has been asserted that a nunnery for Sisters of the Cistercian order was founded in 1218 in the southern part of the city. The annals of the Four Masters, however, state that an establishment of this description existed here prior to that period. Of the Dominican Abbey, founded on the north side of the city in the year 1274, there are at present no remains, nor can its site be accurately traced. In 1311, Edward II. granted this place to Richard de Burgo, Earl of Ulster; from which time till the reign of Elizabeth no event of considerable importance is recorded. The city suffered considerably from the conflicts which grew out of Shane O'Neill's hostility to the crown of England; when the cathedral, which was converted into an arsenal by the officer in command of the English forces, was blown up with gunpowder by accident. At the termination of the war in 1603, a number of English colonists settled here, on the invitation of Sir Henry Docwra, who obtained grants for markets and fairs, and, in 1604, a charter of incorporation conferring extensive privileges. But in 1608, subsequent to the withdrawal of O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, and O'Donnel, Earl of Tyrconnel, from this country, the growing prosperity of the city was checked by the insurrection of young Cahir O'Dogherty, the chieftain of Innishowen, who took both Culmore and Derry. At the latter of which Sir George Powlet—to whom Sir Henry Docwra assigned all his interest—and his men were slain. As many of the inhabitants as could make their escape fled, and the town was plundered and burnt.

A large part of Ulster having fallen into the hands of the crown on the attainder of the great chiefs O'Neill, O'Donnel, and O'Dogherty, proposals for colonisation were made to the city of London, in which this place was described as "the late ruinated city of Derry, which may be made by land impregnable." In accepting the offers of the crown, the city agreed to erect 200 houses here, and leave room for 300 more: 4,000 acres near the city were to be annexed to it in perpetuity, exclusively of bog and barren mountain, which were to be added as waste. Convenient sites were to be allowed for the houses of the bishop and dean, and the liberties were to extend three miles in every direction from the centre of the city. From this time forward the circumstances of the city, now called Londonderry, under the Irish Society, were like unto those of Coleraine, under the same body, and therefore I do not consider it necessary to enter into further details regarding it. Besides, most of my readers are sufficiently conversant with the modern portion of its history, including its protracted and memorable siege.

Having at the close of this, my first visit to the Maiden city, proceeded by the railway to Omagh, the assize town of the county of Tyrone, I experienced some disappointment, as the train did not start until six o'clock in the evening; and, as the season was somewhat advanced, it being the latter end of the month of October, the principal part of that portion of the country intervening between these places was entirely shut out from my view. The town of Omagh is situated on the south bank of the river Stroule, a tributary of the Foyle, which, after connecting itself with the river Mourne, falls into the larger stream. It is evidently an old town, and is situated partly in the parish of Cappagh, but chiefly in that of Drumragh, barony of Omagh, about 35 miles from Londonderry, and 109 from Dublin. Like the surrounding country in general, it presents an undulating surface, which, even in the principal streets, is sufficiently apparent. The Court House stands upon an elevation in the main street, and is a good square building, with a handsome portico formed by four Doric columns, and an equal number of pilasters of the same order supporting a cornice and pediment. On the apex of the pediment stand the royal arms, and in the tympanum is the town clock. The Protestant church, a spacious structure of long standing, in the Grecian style of architecture, with a lofty tower and spire, is situated in New Street, partly in the rear of the Court House, and therefore cannot be seen to full advantage. The Catholic church is situated in a lower part of the town, and is a good substantial building, with a handsome tower, in the centre of which is the principal entrance. The altar stands beneath a rich canopy, supported by clustered columns painted so as to resemble fine grey marble. Galleries, supported in front by light pillars, surround the entire church, with the exception of the altar end. They are nicely fitted up with seats, from the most backward of which a view can be obtained of the altar, with its rich

decorations and handsome tabernacle. While here I paid a visit to the convent of the Sisters of Mercy, which is situated immediately adjoining the Court House; noticing their fine little chapel, and the school, which was attended by a large number of interesting and well-mannered children. The blessings which are conferred by the ladies of the several convents are, indeed, abundant. There are two Presbyterian meeting-houses in the town, and also parochial and National schools. The county jail, which was built in 1804, and considerably enlarged in 1822, stands on an eminence in the northern part of the town. The barracks are healthfully situated at some distance north of the jail, and are suited to the accommodation of a field officer, seven commissioned officers, and a proportionate number of non-commissioned officers and privates; with stabling for sixty horses; and a hospital for about a dozen patients. The union workhouse is situated in the neighbourhood of the town, and was, like similar institutions, showing a decrease in the number of its inmates, as contrasted with the last few years. The county infirmary, a plain building of two stories, apparently well attended to, is situated in the main street. Next door to this institution is the excellent hotel kept by Mr. Harkin, a large and well-conducted establishment; the rooms are lofty and commodious, and capable of rendering accommodation to upwards of twenty visitors at the same time. Like the Cloth-workers' Arms Hotel at Coleraine, it makes a very favourable impression on the mind of the traveller. The town may be said to consist of three principal streets, with a few smaller ones branching from them. The houses in general are very respectable, and the shops reasonably good. The market is held on Saturday, and fairs on the first Saturday of every month. There are shambles and also a corn market in the town, the latter being well supplied with grain, as the surrounding district is a good corn country. In the river Stroule, which runs beside the town, are sometimes found small shell-fish, resembling mussels, that contain pearls, some of which sell so low as five shillings each, but in some instances jewels of this kind have been found worth £20. Mr. Nelas, the proprietor of the *Tyrone Constitution*, has, among his collection of Irish diamonds, one of these pearls, which is considered value for the above sum. This place, which was anciently called *Oigh-Magh*, and *Oigh-Rath*, which signifies "the seat of the chiefs," is supposed to have owed its origin as a town to an abbey founded here in 792, which was converted into a house for brethren of the Franciscan order in 1464, and continued to flourish as such till the dissolution of the monasteries, when its site and possessions were granted to Sir Henry Piers. No notice is taken of the town as a garrison or place of defence until 1498, when MacArt O'Nial, having taken up arms against the English government, fortified himself in the castles of Omy and Kinnard; upon which the Earl of Kildare, then Lord-Deputy, marched his forces to the former, took it, and levelled it to the ground, and compelled MacArt to submit to the king's

authority. In 1602, Lord Mountjoy, then Lord-Deputy, placed a strong garrison here, under the command of Sir Henry Docwra; whence he marched with all his forces against the Earl of Tyrone, and succeeded in taking the whole of his magazines, military chest, and other valuables; and, after driving the discomfited general to Castle Roe, on the river Bann, penetrated as far as Enniskillen. The brave Tyrone never recovered after this defeat, and soon after made his final submission at Mellifont. On the plantation of Ulster, in 1609, the town, with the surrounding district, was granted to Lord Castlehaven; but he neglecting to build castles, and settle English subjects on the lands, agreeably to the articles of plantation, the grant reverted to the crown; and the district was granted by Charles I., in 1631, to James Mervyn, Esq., whose descendants, the Archdalls, are still in the possession of it.

Of the ancient castle or the Franciscan monastery there are now no remains. The county of Tyrone, like that of Antrim, abounds in numerous and finely undulating hills, which present a very pleasing appearance; they are even more numerous in this county, although by no means so lofty as those to be seen in Antrim. Indeed, it would be difficult to see along the whole line between Omagh and Ballygawley, a single mile of level country. About half way between these places, a semicircular range of hills, sweeping in an easterly direction from north to south, rises into something approaching to mountain land, and is covered to its summit with heath. Abounding as it does in turf, the half-encircled space is called the Star Bog, upon which, and the adjoining hills, good grouse shooting can be had.

Descending from this elevation, the tourist will soon arrive at Ballygawley, about fourteen miles from Omagh, a good market town, in which are a distillery, a brewery, and a small hotel called the Stewart Arms. I noticed here a Protestant church, a Roman Catholic church, and a Presbyterian place of worship.

Soon after leaving this place, the traveller will arrive at Aughnacloy, a fine open, healthful town, consisting of one long and wide street, with houses of very respectable character, and several good shops. This town is situated in the parish of Carrenteel, and barony of Dungannon, sixteen miles from Omagh, and about seventy-six from Dublin. The market, which is held on Wednesday, is very well attended. There is a neat market-house in the town, and fairs are held on the first Wednesday of every month.

Arriving at the beautiful little town of Caledon, the stranger will experience much gratification, and will feel equal surprise and pleasure at the highly improved appearance it presents. It is nicely situated on the river Blackwater, which, as it flows in a rapid course through the town, renders important services in turning the large and extensive mills that have been erected on its banks. The town consists of one long street, containing between two and three hundred houses, all of which are well built—many of them presenting a fine appearance.

The Protestant church, a large edifice, in the later style of English architecture, is centrally situated, and comprises a nave, chancel, and south transept, with a handsome tower and spire. There is a reasonably-good Catholic church in the town, and also a very plain meeting-house for Presbyterian worship. The market-house, a neat structure, is graced by an octagon tower, surmounted by a nice cupola, from which rises a weather-guage. In the upper part of the building is the sessions court, and in a portion of the basement story a dispensary. Next door to this building is the hotel, a handsome house, above the door of which appear the richly-emblazoned arms of the Earl of Caledon, from which the establishment takes its name. The advantages arising from the presence of the landlord, or proprietor, were quite apparent in the circumstances and appearance of this town, which is one of the nicest of its class in the north of Ireland, the late Earl of Caledon, on whose property it is situated, being a constant resident, who took a becoming interest in everything appertaining to its welfare and prosperity. His fine demesne and residence, Caledon Hill, immediately adjoin the town, and constitute a really beautiful seat. On a part of the demesne, which comprises about 650 acres, richly planted, has been erected a handsome monument, which declares alike the worth of the parent and the filial affection of the son, it being raised by the late earl to his father, the second Earl of Caledon. This fine obelisk, a fluted column, not unlike that raised on the walls of Londonderry to the memory of the intrepid Walker, is surmounted by a full-length figure of the noble earl to whose memory it was erected. To the deep sorrow and regret of his family and his numerous tenantry, this excellent and kind-hearted nobleman himself paid the debt of nature in the year 1855, and was succeeded by his eldest son, who was born in the year 1846.

The county of Tyrone was rendered strikingly remarkable in the history of the province of Ulster, from being a portion of the domain of the great O'Neills of the north of Ireland, and in it was situated the palace and principal residence of the head of that powerful sept, who were the descendants of the great Nial of the Nine Hostages, who may with justice be considered the head of the ancient Hy-Nial race.

Among the native chieftains who stood in an attitude of stubborn and decided hostility to the establishment of the English power and authority in this country, none had signalised themselves in so determined a manner as the chieftains of Tyrone; and the loss of men and the amount of treasure wasted in the time of Elizabeth, for the purpose of overcoming and reducing to subjection the wayward and intractable Shane O'Neill, were sources of the bitterest regret to the imperious Queen of England, who was known to be particularly sensitive regarding pecuniary matters. Great were the efforts made by the heads of the government to effect an amicable arrangement with the Ulster chief, but for a considerable length of time without success.

At length, however, owing in a great measure to the courtesy and kindness with which he was treated by her Majesty the Queen, when on a visit to her court at London, he made his submission, and promised, on certain conditions, fealty and allegiance to her person and government. So anxious was he at this time to prove his sincerity in this regard, that he marched to attack the Scots, who had about this period passed over in great numbers from the Isles to the north of Ireland, and whom he considered as rebels to the crown of England. On this occasion he was encountered by the Scoto-Irish lord, Macdonnell, surnamed Sorley Boy, whom, after a short conflict, he defeated, and the following day destroyed the castle and town of James McConnel. His brilliant achievements in this expedition were hailed by all parties, both Irish and English, with general satisfaction. After such manifestations of gratification, it must appear strange to find the English government exhibiting symptoms of displeasure towards him. This, however, we find to be the case, as the Queen immediately after addressed instructions to the Lord-Deputy, directing that O'Neill should be made to answer for all the disorders committed by him since his last pardon, such as proceeding against the Scots without advising the Lord-Deputy of his intentions. From what has been just stated, it could scarcely be expected that peace, order, or obedience, would be the natural result, and consequently we find that the redoubted Shane stood forward once more in his former attitude of hostility to England. The ever-active and energetic outraged chief immediately commenced offensive operations, directing his assaults in the first instance against Armagh, for which place the Lord-Deputy, accompanied by most of the great lords of the Pale, set out on a determined warlike expedition. While this powerful force was in the act of marching against him, a reverse of almost equal proportions awaited him, as some of the most powerful of his former friends had entered into an alliance with England. Thus circumstanced, the impulsive and incautious chieftain made overtures to the Scots, whom he had so recently outraged and defeated, to the effect, that he was willing to enter into an alliance with them against the English. To these proposals his late enemies appeared to lend a willing ear, and O'Neill proceeded to their camp, for the purpose of entering into arrangements in relation to the object contemplated. Here he received a hospitable welcome, and the best fare at their command was prepared for him and his followers; but as the hilarity of the evening advanced, the real intentions of the Scots became manifested, as, on a given signal, armed soldiers rushed into the tent, and, with furious celerity, having despatched the few followers of the great Ulster chieftain, they then turned their weapons upon himself, and buried them in his body. Thus fell this remarkable and intrepid Irishman, who had so long baffled the English authorities, and whose indomitable courage and great strength of character rendered him worthy of a better fate.

The tourist, as he proceeds through the Irish provinces, will glean from the natives of particular districts, traditionary tales illustrative of many remarkable events, which, exciting his feelings and awakening his curiosity, will doubtless lead him to seek for the most authentic sources of historical information regarding them. Many extraordinary and romantic stories are told relative to the proud and daring Shane O'Neill, among which the style and grandeur in which he lived at his castles of Benburb and Dundrum are dwelt upon with much minuteness. It has been said that he was wont to keep 200 tuns of wine as a stock in his cellars.

The systematic and still more protracted war which followed soon after was a source of more uneasiness to the Queen of England and her government than even that which preceded it. Scarcely had the shock occasioned by the sad fate of the unfortunate Prince of Tyrone, Shane O'Neill, subsided, when another war broke out in Ireland, which was called the War of Tyrone, as the earl of that name was its chief and most prominent leader. This was a long and fierce struggle, having commenced in the year 1588, the thirty-first year of the reign of Elizabeth, and ended in its forty-fifth year, having raged with all the fury that national enmity, added to the most ardent religious zeal, could excite. The Earl of Tyrone, called Hugh O'Neill, was the son of Fardorach, called by the English, Matthew, Baron of Dungannon, and grandson of Con O'Neill, on whom Henry VIII. conferred the title of Earl of Tyrone, and consequently was also the nephew of Shane O'Neill, who figured so conspicuously in the early part of this reign. On the death of his uncle Shane, the Earl of Tyrone was undoubtedly one of the first noblemen in the country, and was also the most powerful prince in Ireland, whether as regarded landed property, money, men, or arms. If to these advantages, says the historian, we add that of being a good citizen, he surpassed them all. His mind was just, and had been formed in the best schools in Ireland, and subsequently in England. With these high qualities, we find that on the breaking out of the fifteen years' war with England, he was called upon to take the most leading and prominent position, and consequently we find him, in conjunction with his friend and compatriot, O'Donnel, Earl of Tyrconnel, directing the movements of large armies, uniting the hitherto divided chieftains of the country, and conciliating the good opinion of foreign courts, and obtaining their powerful co-operation and assistance. Many were the efforts and great the sacrifices, both as regards men and money, made on both sides during this protracted strife, in which the Earl of Essex was discomfited and disgraced, and which ultimately led to the sacrifice of his life.

The chequered events which grew out of this war furnish details which are every way worthy of the reader's attention, but which are far too voluminous to find a place here. On the death of Elizabeth, and the accession of James I., a peace was effected, and a general

amnesty granted to the Irish leaders, together with the free exercise of their religion and the peaceful enjoyment of their estates, on condition that they should lay down their arms. The hopes and anticipations entertained by the Earl of Tyrone and some of the Irish chieftains, his immediate friends and confidants, at the conclusion of the peace, were, it would appear, at an early period destined to end in disappointment, as the character and policy of James I. were not such as to inspire them with that degree of confidence as regarded the interest of the country, that they were led to expect. This feeling of disappointment, aggravated, it is believed, by his long-cherished hatred of the English name, led the Earl of Tyrone to the conclusion that there were no real grounds of hope for the country, save through the influence of foreign swords. In these views, however wild and visionary, the faithful Tyrconnel, his ever constant and devoted friend, fully concurred; and they also found in the young and enthusiastic Richard Nugent, Baron of Delvin, a willing associate and active co-operator in their contemplated national enterprise. The projects of Tyrone and his associates, whatever they were, never developed themselves, as in a short time after, to the great surprise of the English government and the whole nation, this renowned earl, accompanied by the Earl of Tyrconnel, suddenly departed from the kingdom, taking with them their families and a large number of followers. Though doubtless many hearts in Ireland, and perhaps in England also, were filled with sorrow and regret for the downfall of the Lords Tyrone and Tyrconnel, there was one heart, however, that exulted in their melancholy fate, as he derived therefrom what he must have considered a great godsend. This was no less a personage than King James himself, to whom reverted their extensive lands and possessions, which enabled him more fully to carry out his favourite project, the plantation of Ulster. Hugh O'Neill, the great but unfortunate Earl of Tyrone, left behind one son, who, a few years after the death of his father, was assassinated at Brussels, and with him ended the most distinguished branch of the great Hy-Nial race. In the reign of Charles I., however, other branches of that ancient and illustrious house became conspicuous for the part they took in public affairs; and one of them, Sir Phelim O'Neill, while in command of the confederated Irish army, tarnished his name and lineage with acts of baseness and cruelty, which stand startlingly prominent on the page of Irish history. Owen Roe O'Neill, on the other hand, a true scion of the old Hy-Nial stock, who commanded a regiment in Spain and won the respect of the highest personages in that country, upheld the honour and the prestige of the family name. The fame acquired by this brave Irishman caused his character to be known and appreciated in many parts of the Continent. The long and peaceful reign of James I., although in many respects prosperous, nurtured within it the seeds of evils which in the subsequent reign ripened and burst forth in luxuriant profusion. The prodigal expenditure of this

monarch, which entailed debts to the amount of £700,000 upon his successor, was not the least of these evils. The consequence of this state of things was, that Charles I., beset with pecuniary difficulties, was obliged to resort to means of raising money inconsistent alike with the established laws of the country, his own honour, and the public safety. Among the expedients resorted to for the purpose of replenishing his exchequer, he entered into a compact with the Irish people, which we have too much reason to suppose he was not over scrupulous to fulfil. The Roman Catholics of Ireland, hoping to gain from the monarch's necessities what they had long ceased to expect from his justice, offered to advance £120,000; in return for which certain privileges, or more correctly speaking, exemptions from wrong and oppression, were to be accorded to them by the state. Lord Falkland, the Lord-Deputy, with whom these stipulations were entered into, we have reason to suppose meant honourably; but on his recall, his successor, Viscount Wentworth, afterwards Earl of Strafford, resorted to the most mean and contemptible shifts to evade the obligations. Conduct such as this, as disgraceful to himself as it was dishonouring to his royal master, was resorted to in other instances also, and ultimately led to that wholesale corruption which caused his arbitrary and unscrupulous character to stand out in bold relief; while the sacrifice of his life was the penalty demanded and paid for his grossly abused power. The death of this able and daring minister was but the prelude of what was soon to follow; when startled Europe stood aghast at the immolation of a legitimate sovereign by the hands of his own subjects, who was offered up as a victim to the outraged constitutional rights of the people. But while the English Parliamentarians and the Scotch Covenanters looked upon his condemnation and execution in the light of stern justice, the people of Ireland, ever remarkable for their attachment to monarchy, notwithstanding his treatment of them—as well as the friends of legitimacy throughout the whole of Europe—looked upon his trial as a solemn mockery, and his death as little less than martyrdom. When the game of hypocrisy, however, was fully played out, and men were restored to their sober senses on the death of Oliver Cromwell, the restoration of his son Charles II. might fairly be considered as the verdict of the people of the three kingdoms. Doubtless many of the Parliamentary party, imbued with the political sentiments which actuated John Hampden and Algernon Sidney, felt themselves justified in their proceedings, being influenced by constitutional motives; but the Scottish Covenanters were swayed by religious rancour and fierce fanatical hatred. From the latter a more merciful course of proceeding might have been expected, as Charles was the son and immediate successor of the last of their legitimate sovereigns.

The county of Tyrone is bounded on the east by the county of Armagh and Lough Neagh, on the west by the counties of Donegal and Fermanagh, on the north by the county of Londonderry, and on

the south by those of Fermanagh and Monaghan. The surface of this county is greatly diversified by a continuous variety of hill and dale, rising into elevated tracts in the north and west, which are known by the general designation of the Munterlowny mountains. The mountainous districts, especially near the courses of the numerous rivers and streams, abound in romantic and picturesque views; the beauty of the scenery being greatly enhanced by the several finely-wooded plantations. There are but few lakes in the county; but it is intersected by numerous rivers and streams, which for the most part are tributaries of the Foyle. The remains of antiquity in this county are neither numerous nor very interesting, with the exception of Raths. Of the ancient castles, Benburb, a stronghold of the O'Neills, is the largest. This vicinity has been rendered remarkable, being the scene of a decisive victory gained by Owen Roe O'Neill, already mentioned, over the Scottish General Munroe, which has been considered the greatest victory since the days of Brian Boru, achieved on Irish ground. An interesting account of this battle will be found in the pages of MacGeoghegan, Whitlock, Leland, Warner, and Moore. The latter historian, speaking of this interesting event, states that three remarkable and very important events occurred within a few weeks of each other:—"On the 28th of March the peace was concluded with the Marquis of Ormonde; on the 5th of May the king surrendered himself to the Scots; and on the 5th of June O'Neill achieved his triumphant victory at Benburb."

The few pages which I have necessarily devoted to some of the historical reminiscences connected with this county oblige me to forego anything like a lengthened description of the minor towns, as I find my space gradually diminishing, and my matter swelling beyond the dimensions to which prudence requires it should be limited. This is, more or less, a source of regret to me, as some of these towns are rendered not a little interesting to the intelligent reader from the important historical and national associations connected with them; as, for instance, Clogher, the seat of a diocese, and formerly the abode of the princes of Ergallia; and Dungannon, rendered famous in modern times by the assemblages of the Irish Volunteers, of proud memory, which frequently took place within it.

CHAPTER XV.

TOWNS IN THE COUNTY OF ARMAGH, AND OTHER TOWNS IN ULSTER.

LEAVING the county of Tyrone, and proceeding to the archiepiscopal city of Armagh, rendered so peculiarly interesting from being, since the days of St. Patrick, the venerable and primatial seat of ecclesiastical dignity, the tourist will find much to interest him; as, independently of its paramount claims in a religious and antique point of view, there are many features about the city and its environs worthy of notice and admiration. These are to be found in the admirable situation of the city itself, in its public buildings, and in its

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generally well-built and respectable houses. The shops, too, attract the notice and admiration of the visitor; affording, as they do, a tolerably just criterion of the wealth and enlightenment of the inhabitants of the city and of the surrounding country. Armagh is enviably situated on the declivity of a fine eminence, round the western base of which runs the river Callan, winding in its devious course to the Blackwater. The approaches on every side present

interesting and agreeable objects. On the east are the handsome village of Rich Hill, and the picturesque demesne of Castle Dillon, in which a former proprietor erected an obelisk, on a lofty elevation, to the memory of the Volunteers of Ireland. The western approach is by beautiful Caledon, already mentioned, and contains many fine seats and rich demesnes. That from Dungannon on the north is through a well-wooded country; while that from the south is through the fertile and well-cultivated valley of the Callan, the banks of which are ornamented with many fine dwellings, enriched with picturesque plantations, and dotted in several places with extensive bleach-greens, that exhibit in their agreeable features the sure indications of industry and consequent comfort. Some of the principal streets are in the vicinity of the cathedral, which is the most central, as well as being one of the most conspicuous, objects in the city. The streets are carefully attended to, and the ample flagged ways kept in excellent condition; they are cleansed, watched, and lighted with gas, under a body of town commissioners. A copious supply of water is conveyed by metal pipes through the principal streets of the city, and fountains are erected in many parts of it, for the convenience of the humbler class of the inhabitants. Turf is abundant, and coals are brought from mines which are worked at the distance of about a dozen miles from the city. This inland city and parliamentary borough, situated in the barony as well as in the county of Armagh, is sixty-four miles from Dublin. It comprises within its municipal boundaries nearly 270 acres, with about 1,400 houses, and a population of 10,000 souls. The cathedral of the Protestant primacy is situated on a lofty eminence, and having recently undergone extensive repairs, presents a noble appearance. It is a large cruciform structure, with a massive tower, but no spire, it having been deemed inexpedient to encumber it with such an appendage, as, to be in proportion with the church, its weight would be too great to be supported with safety by the present tower. This church, originally founded by St. Patrick, was several times destroyed by fire, on one occasion by Turgesius, the Danish chief; but after repeated repairs and injuries, it was restored to a state of comparative perfection by the late Lord Primate Beresford, who died at the advanced age of more than ninety years, in the latter part of the month of July, 1862. Preparatory to these extensive improvements, he employed Mr. Cottenham, an architect of London, to make a survey of the cathedral, with a view to its perfect restoration. His report being deemed favourable, the undertaking, to which his Grace subscribed several thousand pounds, was commenced under that gentleman's superintendence in the year 1824. In the course of these repairs, the piers of the tower were removed, and replaced by others resting on a more solid foundation. In the execution of this great undertaking, the whole weight of the tower was sustained without the slightest crack or settlement, till the new work was brought into connection with

the old. A model has been kept of the skilful and ingenious contrivance by which this most desirable object was accomplished.

The general character of the architecture is the English style, with portions of the Norman, and many of the details are rich and elegant. The splendid clustered columns which divide the aisles from the nave are considered beautiful specimens. Among the ancient interesting objects that had been concealed by previous alterations, were a sculptured figure of St. Patrick, with his crosier, in a compartment surmounted with shamrocks, which is considered the earliest existing record of that ancient emblem; and another of St. Peter, with the keys, surmounted by a cock, which was discovered in the wall under the rafters of the choir. There are several splendid monuments in the cathedral, of which the principal are one of Dean Drelincourt, by Rystrach; of Primate Robinson, with a bust, by Bacon; of Lord Charlemont, who died in 1674, and of his father, Baron Caulfield. The ancient monuments of Brian Boroimhe, his son Morrough, his nephew Conrad, and his grandson Turlough, who were slain at the battle of Clontarf, and interred in this cathedral, have long since mouldered away. The length of this cathedral is about 184 feet, and the breadth along the transepts 120; with elegantly moulded arches to the doors and windows. An extensive range of buildings was at this time being erected in the vicinity of the cathedral for the choristers. On an eminence east of the cathedral, and near the Mall, is a church of comparatively recent erection, dedicated to St. Mark, which is used as a chapel of ease. It is a handsome edifice, in the later English style of architecture; the interior presenting an elegant appearance, the aisles being divided from the nave by rows of fine arches resting on clustered columns, from the capitals of which spring the ornamental ribs that support the groinings of the roof. The Catholic cathedral of Armagh, built in 1750, has of late years been considerably enlarged, but is still much too small for the congregation. It has a triple roof, as if intended for three distinct buildings; still its appearance is pleasing, and the interior is laid out to the best possible advantage.

The Catholic citizens of Armagh will ere long have ample church accommodation, as the cathedral now being built there, under the direction of his Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Dixon, the Roman Catholic Primate, will be, when finished, the largest church ever erected in Ireland, with the exception of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin. This magnificent structure is based on an eminence equal in elevation to the site of the Protestant cathedral, and not very far from it, on the west side of the city. The walls when I paid my visit were nearly up to their full height, and their great extent and massive character, together with the immense clustered columns for the support of the arches that divide the aisles from the nave, the deeply-receding and richly-moulded panellings of the doors, and the grandeur of the windows, even in its then state, were such as to excite

the surprise and admiration of the beholder. The length of this great church is 240 feet, including the nave and chancel, and the breadth along the transepts 120 feet. The breadth of the nave and chancel is 53 feet, and the breadth of the nave and choir aisles 22 feet. The great arches spanning the nave and transepts are 80 feet in height to the crown of the arch, and those dividing the aisles from the nave 25 feet high. The triforium, which was at this time built, is formed by a series of semicircular arches. On each side of the deeply-receding arched door and grand western windows rises an attached and immense pillar, which projects considerably; and on each extremity of the front an equally massive weathering-buttress, giving to the whole façade an appearance of great and enduring strength. The window in this front, and also the great eastern or chancel window, are 45 feet in height, and of seven lights; in each side of the nave are six windows, and three of the same size and character in each side of the chancel, filled with decorative tracery, and each varying from the other. The transept windows are of five lights each, with head tracery in keeping with the other windows. Mr. McCarthy, of Dublin, is the architect of this great building.

The expense of this highly important and very extensive cathedral, up to the commencement of the year 1860, amounted to the sum of £27,000. It was at this period ready for the roof, and contracts were entered into with Mr. Burn, of Belfast, for its completion, with the exception of some minor matters, which were not considered of an urgent nature, for a sum exceeding £15,000. Thus it will be seen that the entire cost will amount to more than £42,000. Towards the amount contracted for with Mr. Burn, the Rev. Mr. MacMahon collected from Irishmen in America the sum of £5,000. The clustered columns that support the arches are exceedingly grand; while the arches themselves, and especially those, four in number, which support the great central tower, display a corresponding degree of sublimity and beauty. The grand oriel west window, as well as those of the transepts, attracts the marked attention of the visitor, as do the two western towers, which at the time of which I am now speaking rose to a height of 64 feet, and will when completed, together with their graceful spires, attain an elevation of 200 feet. When this noble edifice shall be entirely finished, and its decoration and furniture completed, the total expense will not be less than £60,000.

While in this vicinity I had pointed out to me the site of the first Christian church ever built in Armagh, which is said to have been erected by the great apostle St. Patrick; a large windmill stands adjacent to this once holy fane. There are three places of worship for Presbyterians, two for Methodists, and one for Independents, in the city, some of which are nicely got up. The Linen Hall, a large and commodious building, is open for the sale of webs on every Tuesday; there is also a yarn hall in the city, in which large weekly sales take

place. The market-house, a good building of hewn stone, occupies a central situation at a short distance from the entrance to the cathedral. New shambles have recently been erected here, and the former stalls converted to other use. The market for the sale of agricultural produce is held on Thursday, and that for provisions on Saturday. Fairs are held on the Tuesday after Michaelmas, and a week before Christmas; and a large cattle market on the first Saturday of every month. Manufactures were not at this time extensively carried on in Armagh, nor the distilleries, of which there are two, working; but the brewery was engaged in the process of its manufacture. Branches of the Bank of Ireland, the Provincial, the Belfast, the Ulster, and the Northern banks have been established here. The Belfast Bank, erected some years since, is a highly enriched edifice, and an ornament to the city. A charter of incorporation was conferred on this city by James I., which was annulled by James II., who granted one conferring more extensive privileges; but William III. restored the original charter, under which the city continued to be governed until the abolition of the small boroughs in 1841, pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Corporations' Act; it was at this time governed under the direction of a body of town commissioners. The County Court House, built in 1809, and situated at the northern extremity of the Mall, is a handsome building, with a rich portico in front. At the opposite end of this fine space stands the county jail, a substantial building, with two enclosed yards, and an infirmary containing wards for males and females. The Mall, which is an agreeable promenade, was formed by subscription on ground granted on lease to the corporation in the year 1797 by the Lord Primate, being part of the town commons granted to him for useful purposes, by an Act of the 13th and 14th of George III. The enclosed area, on the eastern side of which are some fine houses, comprises nearly eight acres, and is nicely kept. In addition to this the primate's demesne is open to respectable persons, and containing, as it does, 800 acres richly planted and intersected with fine walks, affords ample and agreeable recreation. The episcopal palace was erected in 1770 by Primate Robinson, who also in 1781 built a beautiful chapel in the Grecian style of architecture, at a short distance from the palace. On a part of the demesne is the ruin of an ancient abbey. The Tontine Buildings, originally erected as a private speculation, contain a large assembly-room, having a suite of apartments connected with it; a public news-room, and a savings-bank. The public library, founded and endowed by Primate Robinson in 1771, has been recently rebuilt and improved. This benevolent dignitary bequeathed for the use of the public his valuable collection of books, which, together with others obtained from various sources, amount to the large number of 14,000 volumes, many of them rare and valuable works. The observatory, beautifully situated on a gentle eminence north-east of the city, was also erected by the same dignitary in the year 1788, on a plot of ground comprising

nearly fifteen acres, which is likewise used as a place of recreation. The County Infirmary, situated on the north-western declivity of the hill which is crowned by the cathedral, is a fine old building of hewn limestone, and consists of a centre and wings, one part being occupied by the surgeon, and the remainder open for the reception of patients. The Fever Hospital is favourably situated about a furlong from the city, on the Caledon road, and was erected in 1825, at a cost of £3,500, including the purchase of the ground on which it stands. The Armagh District Lunatic Asylum was erected by a grant from the Consolidated Fund, at an expense of £21,000, including the purchase of the site, to be repaid by the several counties comprising the district, which are those of Armagh, Cavan, Fermanagh, and Monaghan. There are thirteen acres of ground attached to the establishment, which are appropriated to gardening and husbandry, and also to the health and recreation of the patients. The hotels were sadly complaining of the injury they had sustained by the opening of the railway to Armagh, as strangers and commercial travellers do not remain so long as heretofore; this, however, is one of the partial evils that, according to Alexander Pope, ever accompany the universal good. The military barracks are commodious, and afford accommodation to about four companies of infantry; while the situation is elevated and healthful, being in the vicinity of the episcopal palace. The union workhouse is also situated in this neighbourhood, and was showing a gratifying decrease in the number of paupers. Besides the endowed school called the College, and the Choristers' School, there are schools here in connection with the National Board of Education; and recently some of the zealous and efficient members of the Christian Brothers' Society have opened a school here, under the sanction of his Grace the Roman Catholic Primate. A branch of the Sisters of Mercy's pious and devoted order was at this time about to be introduced by his Grace, which, doubtless, will be productive of the same blessings and advantages here as are derived from their establishments in other localities.

The former importance of this city may be gathered from the several historians who have written on the state of this country, and who describe it as being one of the principal cities in Ireland. St. Fiech, who flourished in the sixth century, calls it the seat of empire; Giraldus Cambrensis styles it the metropolis; and even so lately as the year 1580, Cluverius calls it the head of the kingdom. It is but reasonable to suppose that these writers were speaking of it as an ecclesiastical city, it having thus early derived its great importance from its cathedral being built by St. Patrick. He also founded the Monastery of SS. Peter and Paul, for Canons Regular of the order of St. Augustine, which was rebuilt by O'Hoedegan, and was the most distinguished of the religious establishments that existed in this city. We are informed that this institution received numerous grants and endowments from the native kings, the last of whom,

Roderick O'Connor, made a grant to its professors in the year 1169. A school or college was attached to it, which long continued one of the most celebrated seminaries in Europe, and from which many learned men, not only of the Irish nation but from all parts of the Continent, were sent forth to diffuse the light of knowledge throughout Christendom. It has been stated that so many as 7,000 students were congregated here in the pursuit of learning at one period; and the annals of Ulster state that, at a synod held by Gelasius, at Claonadh, in 1162, it was decreed that no person should lecture publicly on theology except such as studied at Armagh. The city suffered great injury from accidental fires in the seventh and eighth centuries, the latter of which was occasioned by lightning. It also suffered from the ferocity of the Danes in some of their incursions, and was taken possession of by one of their most courageous chiefs, Turgesius, in the year 836. We find that in the year 1004, the celebrated Brian Boroimhe entered Armagh, when he presented at the great altar of the church a collar of gold weighing 20 ounces; and where, after his death at the battle of Clontarf, agreeably to his dying request, he was interred, together with the remains of his son and grandson. The city suffered severely from the invasion of Edward Bruce in 1315, at which time the entire see was greatly wasted, and the archbishop reduced to much distress. Among the most remarkable ancient places in the city and its vicinity may be mentioned Temple Bridget, built by St. Patrick, near the spot now occupied by the Roman Catholic cathedral. He also founded Temple-Na-Fearta, or the "Church of the Miracles," without the city, for his sister Lupitia, who was interred there, and whose body was discovered at the commencement of the seventeenth century, in an upright position, deeply buried, with a cross before and behind it. The site of the Monastery of St. Columba was that now occupied by the Provincial Bank at the north-east corner of Abbey Street, and the two Methodist chapels stand upon a part of its gardens. About two miles west of the city stood the palace of Emania, the chief residence of the Kings of Ulster. Crieve Roe, adjoining it, is said to have been the seat of the only order of knighthood among the ancient Irish; its members were called "Knights of the Red Branch," and hence the name of the place.

Whatever may have been the degree of ancient glory which the county of Armagh derived from the erection of the renowned palace of Emania within its precincts, the fame it has acquired in modern times, in conjunction with other parts of the North, by the assemblage of patriotic Irishmen, who, under the name of the Irish Volunteers, first enrolled themselves in this province, and over whom a native of the county, the renowned Earl of Charlemont, held the exalted rank of commander-in-chief, will cause it to live in the recollection of posterity with at least an equal prestige of honourable distinction. This, indeed, is a bright and glorious page in the history of the country; a page upon which the latest time a favourable eye

will turn, and from which Irishmen will learn the salutary truth, that the way to obtain respect and constitutional rights is to be unanimous and determined. Yes; the remarkable year 1782 will long be remembered; while the names of the Earl of Charlemont, the illustrious Grattan, and their patriotic associates, will live in the recollection of their grateful country, and will be chronicled in after times with an enthusiasm somewhat akin to that which the Swiss have adopted when speaking of their Tell, or the Scotch when recounting the heroic deeds of their idolised Bruce. A variety of circumstances tended to awaken in the breasts of Irishmen such emotions and aspirations as ultimately led to the development of that high-toned and patriotic ardour which evinced itself in the organisation of the volunteer corps, which, although associated for the national defence in a moment of emergency, eventually achieved the political independence of the country. Nor was it without sufficient cause that the leaders of the Irish Volunteers availed themselves of the advantage which so general an armament of the stout yeomanry of the country presented, to seek a redress of the grievances under which Ireland laboured, and to relieve the country from the oppression and injustice with which it was treated by England. It is a melancholy truth that, at the time when an imperative necessity called forth the defensive energies of the people, their trade was almost annihilated, and the country reduced to a state bordering on bankruptcy. Such a continuous and palpable delinquency on the part of the government was strongly animadverted on from time to time by writers of great spirit and ability, including Molyneux, Swift, and Lucas, and the result was, that the mind of the nation became gradually prepared for such a course of action as led to the triumphant issue which Irishmen have so much reason to feel proud of, and which, in her long and dreary history, forms an honourable exception to the lamentable jealousy and division by which she has been so unfortunately characterised.

By the time I had proceeded thus far in my tour of the North, I found, not without regret, that the season for travelling with anything like satisfaction had passed, as it was then the latter end of October; and being advised that the month of November was by no means favourable for entering the mountainous districts of Donegal, I was unavoidably obliged to postpone my visit to the country of the O'Donnels and the O'Doghertys until the ensuing summer. Having brought my mind to this conclusion, I took my leave for this time of the province of Ulster, leaving many of the smaller towns in the county of Armagh unnoticed, for the same reason that prevented me from endeavouring to describe towns of the same class in Tyrone and elsewhere, namely, want of space. I was exceedingly well pleased with this my first visit to the North of Ireland, and was much gratified to find that the people in general were so well employed, and so comfortable. In the whole of my progress through this part of the country, I did not notice a single habitation exhibiting in its appearance the

ruin and desolation which bespeak the forcible eviction of the occupier. In this respect it presented a pleasing contrast to the West, and to many parts of the South of Ireland. There was but one drawback to the pleasure I otherwise enjoyed. This arose from the bitter sectarian feeling which is but too general and too obvious in this part of Ireland, and which, perhaps, struck me the more forcibly, as the harmony and good feeling so prevalent in that part of the country where I reside left me entirely unprepared for so painful a demonstration, and, perhaps, rendered me too sensitive as regarded it. Even in Belfast, the centre of enlightenment and prosperity, this feeling manifests itself unmistakably, and can at once be discovered in the fact, that in the entire body of the municipal corporation, consisting of forty gentlemen, there was not, at the time when I paid my visit to that town, a single Roman Catholic, although the inhabitants of that creed exceed, as I have reason to believe, one-third of the population. This spirit of exclusiveness is as unwise as it is unfair, and is calculated to engender jealous and hostile feelings in the minds of so large a portion of the community. By such a mode of dealing, the spirit of the constitution is virtually destroyed, the good intentions of the government defeated, and the amelioration in the state of the law rendered nugatory. It is more in sorrow than in anger I venture to make these observations, and sincerely hope that a speedy alteration for the better, by removing the cause, will soon take place, and thereby spare future travellers the mortification of being under the painful necessity of making what may, perhaps, be considered harsh and ungenerous comments. The facilities for travelling which the construction of railways affords must cause this part of Ireland to be more generally visited by strangers in future. Such intercourse will doubtless be productive of salutary consequences, and will, I sincerely hope, have a tendency to assuage the asperities, both political and sectarian, which are so subversive of that friendly and harmonious feeling that ought ever to exist between natives of the same country and subjects of the same sovereign.

In the autumn of the following year, 1855, I set out from Wexford, for the purpose of renewing my tour of the North; and on arriving in Dublin, proceeded by the Midland Great Western Railway, through Mullingar to Longford, where I took the coach for Sligo, and availing myself of the mail-car, started for the county of Donegal, which I entered, after crossing the river Drowse, which divides that county from the county of Sligo, at the village of Tullaghan.

Entering the county of Donegal by this route, the tourist will soon arrive at Bundoran, which is but two miles from Tullaghan, and four from Ballyshannon. This very popular bathing-place is much frequented in the season, and appears to be to this part of the country what Warren Point is to Newry, Tramore to Waterford, and Kilkee to Limerick; being much resorted to by respectable persons from the counties of Leitrim, Tyrone, Fermanagh, and Cavan. It consists of one long street, of over half a mile in length, the western part of

which is the aristocratic quarter. There are four or five hotels in this part of the town, one of them called the Connolly Arms, in compliment to Thomas Connolly, Esq, M.P. for the county. There are also several excellent private houses, appropriated to the use of fashionable visitors; while, for those of the middle class, all the houses in the town, which are of respectable character, are fitted up at the commencement of the season, and are generally fully occupied. There is a very nice Protestant church here, a new and very remarkable edifice, of the pointed Gothic order; its highly pitched roof and tall windows causing it to come within the designation of the Perpendicular style. The Catholic church, a plain cruciform structure, is situated on low ground, at a short distance from the last-named house of worship. A new church of this denomination was about to be erected at this time, on a more eligible site of about an acre in extent, a few perches east of the present chapel, the parish priest having had a pretty large sum of money in his hands for this desirable purpose. There is also a Wesleyan Methodist place of worship in the town. This watering-place is about to have a substantial advantage conferred upon it by the construction of a railway, by which it will be connected with many of the chief towns of this part of Ulster.

Leaving Bundoran, the tourist will soon arrive at Ballyshannon, a seaport town situated on both sides of the river Erne, which, flowing downwards from the lake of that name, passes through the centre of the town, beneath a bridge of fourteen arches, in its progress to the harbour.

At the mouth of the river, which is some distance below the bridge, a magnificent cascade is formed, the whole body of water rushing with unrestricted force over the precipitous cliff, which here crosses the entire bed of the river, a breadth of about 150 feet, and falling from a height of some 15 or 16 feet into the deep basin which may be considered the head of the harbour, gives unmistakable notice of its onward flight, by the reverberating echoes of its loud and incessant roar. This turgid torrent has, from the colour of its water, been called the Red River, and the formidable rocky barrier just mentioned is known as the Salmon Leap. In the proper season it is an interesting sight to see hundreds of these fine fishes bounding through the foaming volume of falling water to the height above. They not unfrequently destroy themselves in their vigorous efforts by striking with great force against the overhanging crags.

The stranger, on his first arrival at Ballyshannon, sees the town to considerable disadvantage, as from its rising so precipitously on each side of the river, many of its principal features do not come under his immediate observation. But when he finds leisure to view it in detail, he discovers, by the character of the houses and the style of the shops, that it is a comparatively comfortable and thriving place. The principal part of the town is situated on the north side of the river, and contains three streets of respectable character, in one of which

stands a plain market-house. Near the foot of the bridge on this side an area has been enclosed and appropriated to a market, where on Tuesday and Saturday, which are the market days, corn, butter, and other agricultural commodities are exposed for sale. In front of this market-place is the large establishment of Mr. Green, formerly an infantry barracks, where goods of various descriptions, consisting of groceries, soft goods, and general drapery, are disposed of. On this side also, which is in the parish of Kilbarron, is situated the Roman Catholic church of that parish, which is a new and very fine house of worship. It is an oblong building of about 150 feet in length, including the polygonal projection at the eastern end, which forms the chancel, and the porch at the western end, which is of a similar figure. The breadth is 50 feet, the height of the ceiling 42, and that of the tower and spire to the summit of the cross 120 feet. The tower rises exactly in the centre of the north side of the building, while a projection appears on the south side corresponding with the situation of the tower. This was originally intended to contain the altar, but on mature consideration, it was deemed advisable to place it where it stands at present, the five-sided apse being added to the building for that purpose. A lofty arch rising to the height of the ceiling forms the front of the space in the centre of which is the altar. The dome, formed in the head of the arch and the receding chancel, is enriched and divided into five oak compartments, with a lancet-shaped window of stained glass in each side of the pentagon. There are six semi-windows in the lower part of each side of the church, and a like number of full-length windows above the belting-course, which runs between them and the lower tier; while a corbelled parapet runs above the finely-rounded arches of the upper row. There is a handsome circular window of stained glass above the head of the porch in the western end, and a door on each side of the tower. The interior is judiciously laid out, with nice altars on each side of the lofty arch, within which stands the grand altar; while seats and kneeling places occupy the whole of the floor, leaving an open passage in the centre. This very fine church reflects much credit on the people of the town, whose munificent subscriptions and contributions enabled the late reverend parish priest to leave such an interesting monument behind him.

The Protestant church, a new edifice of oblong shape, stands at some distance west of the church of which I have been just speaking. Coupled pilasters rise on each side, between each pair of which are the windows, a double row of five on each side, the arches of which are finely rounded. Above each of the upper windows are nice label mouldings. The tower at present consists of two stages, and is of a plain square character, but, doubtless, in due time it will be enriched and decorated with a spire. On the south side of the river a long street, called the Purt, runs on a line parallel with the stream; while south of it rises an acclivity called the Rock; on a part of which is

situated the Catholic church of the parish of Innismacsaint. This is a good house of worship without any external ornament, save the emblematic cross which decorates each gable. It has also a double row of windows with rounded arches. The military barracks, formerly occupied by a party of artillery, consisting of forty men and a like number of horses, are situated on this elevation. The union workhouse and County Infirmary are likewise situated in this section of the town. On this side of the river, near the fall or Salmon Leap, are several warehouses and stores, including a distillery, which was not then at work. In this vicinity, also, are the extensive concerns of Mr. Creden, timber merchant, which adjoin the commodious premises where formerly were carried on extensive salt works. On the opposite or northern side, and in the rear of his handsome dwelling-house, situated in the street called the Mall, are the compact brewery and stores of Peter Kelly, Esq., an enterprising man of business.

From a verdant elevation immediately north of the cascade, and in the vicinity of the ruins of the ancient castle of the O'Donnels, the chieftains of Tyrconnel, an excellent view is obtained of the Salmon Leap, of Waltown Castle, and of the entrance to the harbour, which is south of this remarkable structure. The residence of the rector is situated on a handsome elevation in this vicinity; and here, also, is a Presbyterian meeting-house. On a small rocky island at a short distance below the fall, is the fish-house, where large quantities of salmon were formerly cured and pickled for exportation; the facilities afforded by steamboats and railroads, whereby the fish can now be conveyed fresh from the stream or the ice-house, render this process unnecessary. There are extensive mills about a quarter of a mile from the town, at a place where formerly stood an ancient abbey; a fragment of one of the walls is all that now remains of this once renowned and holy fane. I noticed, while in this part of the town, that several houses and stores have been suffered to fall into decay; objects like these convey to the mind more forcibly than words the unwelcome intelligence that the town is not progressing in the ratio that every well-wisher of the country and its people would naturally desire. The trade of the port, notwithstanding the liberal expenditure of the late Colonel Connolly for its improvement, has been diminishing of late years. The imports consist of timber, coal, slates, groceries, and English manufactured goods; and the exports principally of corn and salmon. Of the latter, large quantities are taken here, and the quality and flavour such as cannot be exceeded by any of the same species to be found in Ireland, with the exception, perhaps, of the fish taken in the river Shannon, near Limerick. Great numbers of this valued fish are taken at Ballina, but they are considered inferior in size, while some judges hold them to be inferior in quality to those obtained at this fishery. Above the bridge a weir has been constructed for the capture of eels, of which fish large quantities are also taken. This town is somewhat

more than 100 miles from Dublin, and four from Lough Erne, with which there is an extensive inland navigation. The river, as it flows from this lake, affords ample and suitable sites for mills, as it descends in a succession of falls to as many as 140 feet. The town is advantageously situated in the centre of a fertile district, and is therefore abundantly supplied with grain. It has likewise been ascertained that the surrounding country, in many portions of it, contains more than an average proportion of mineral wealth, which up to the present has been allowed to remain in a dormant and undeveloped state. There is a branch of the Provincial Bank of Ireland in the town, and fairs are held here every month. This town was once the residence of the chieftains or princes of Tyrconnel, who had a castle here, of which there are some vestiges still remaining. In this castle Hugh O'Donnel, Prince of Tyrconnel, received his son, Hugh Roe, after his escape from captivity in Dublin in the year 1592. It was the scene of an important military struggle between the native chieftain and the English forces under Sir Conyers Clifford, when the latter, having crossed the Erne, besieged the castle; but after continuing the siege for five days, they were compelled to retreat, and were so closely pursued by O'Donnel's forces, that in fording the river many of them were killed.

Leaving Ballyshannon, the tourist, after passing through a couple of handsome intervening villages, will arrive at the small maritime town of Donegal, which is situated on the river Esk, which, flowing from Lough Esk, a distance of between three and four miles, after passing beneath a handsome stone bridge of three arches, discharges itself into the harbour. It consists of three principal streets, that branch in different directions from the spacious market-place called the Diamond, which is of triangular shape. This handsome area, which may be considered the centre of the town, contains many excellent houses and very nice shops, among which may be mentioned the Arran Arms Hotel, kept by Mr. Dillon, a very good house; the Branch Bank of the Ulster Banking Company; with the market-house, which is situated in the centre of one of the sides of the triangle, and the Sessions House, that stands at one of its points. The Protestant church is situated in the immediate vicinity of the Diamond, and is a modern building of oblong form, with a handsome pinnacled and embattled tower. The castle of the powerful native sept, the O'Donnels, closely adjoins the church. This castle was built in the 13th century, and combined massive strength with considerable domestic accommodation and comfort. Many of the arches, some of which are Gothic, and one of them a rare specimen of the Byzantine style, are still entire; and the windows, which are of square form, with framings of stone, are in tolerable preservation. In the principal apartment on the second story is a large and grand chimney-piece, enriched with fine carving, representing various fanciful devices, and ornamented with rosettes. The Earl of Arran is the owner of the property on which the town stands, in-

cluding this remnant of native feudal grandeur and princely power. Such was the leading and authority exercised by the chiefs of Tyrconnel in this district, that one of them in the year 1587 refused to admit any sheriff appointed by the English government into his territory. The council and government at Dublin, not having a sufficient force at command to compel the submission of this proud chieftain, Sir John Perrot, the Lord-Deputy, resorted to a scheme to get him or his son into his power. With this view, the unscrupulous Deputy contrived to have a ship laden with Spanish wines sent to Donegal. On his arrival the captain of this ship, with affected generosity, entertained all those of respectability in the neighbourhood who would condescend to partake of his hospitality. Young O'Donnel and two of his friends having accepted the invitation, were induced to indulge too freely in the potent foreign beverage prepared for them, and while in a state of partial inebriation were made prisoners and conveyed to Dublin, and retained as hostages by the mean and treacherous Lord-Deputy for the fidelity of the Tyrconnel chief.

In the spring of the year 1588, Sir John Perrot, who, notwithstanding the act of baseness just mentioned, was considered an able and honest statesman, was, at his own request, recalled to England. It has been said that he was a natural son of Henry VIII.; but however that may be, it appears that, during his government of Ireland, he was crossed and thwarted by the queen, and, by his honest reforms, became unpopular with the English. Speaking of his sojourn in Ireland, he was heard to say that the most manageable of the three parties with whom he had to deal were the natives. He let fall, it appears, some expressions disrespectful to the queen and her ministers, and, after the lapse of two or three years, a secret inquiry was made regarding his conduct while ruler of Ireland; and though innocent, as it was believed, of the crime of treason, he was kept for six months with the sentence of death hanging over him, and at last died of a broken heart in the Tower. In the meantime young O'Donnel, who was called Red Hugh, from a natural mark which he bore from his infancy, was kept in bondage in Dublin Castle. At the end of three years, however, he, in company with many others, effected his escape, and returned to Donegal, where he was received by his father with great affection, who resigned to him the hereditary title of his race; and he was solemnly inaugurated The O'Donnel, on an eminence near Ballyshannon—a ceremonial somewhat akin to that to which the O'Neill of Tyrone was wont to submit when installed as the toparch or head of his sept. He married the daughter of Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, and, uniting himself with that nobleman, maintained such an unswerving hostility to the English government as won for him a distinguished name in his country's history. After the victory obtained by the English forces over the Irish and their Spanish auxiliaries in the neighbourhood of Kinsale, this intrepid chieftain proceeded to Spain, with a view of soliciting from the king of that country

additional succours in favour of Ireland. But while on his way to Valladolid, where that monarch then kept his court, he was seized with illness at the town of Simancas, within two leagues of that city, and there died, at the early age of twenty-nine years. On his death, his brother, Roderick O'Donnel, attached himself with equal zeal to the interests of his country and the fortunes of O'Neill, and on the accession of James I., immediately after terms of peace were entered into between the Earl of Tyrone and the English government, we find that the new monarch, on confirming the title and estates of the Earl of Tyrone, created Roderick Earl of Tyrconnel, and at the same time bestowed upon him a considerable estate in that territory. From the marks of favour thus conferred upon these two popular chieftains, anticipations of a hopeful nature were entertained by the people in general; but a little time served to show how fallacious were their hopes; for, instead of experiencing any mitigation of their previous wrongs, they witnessed the reimposition, with renewed vigour, of the two penal statutes—the Acts of Supremacy and Uniformity. Soon after this time, as before mentioned, the Earls of Tyrone and Tyrconnel, accompanied by their families, and a large number of followers, suddenly departed from the kingdom. Thus we find Tyrconnel adhering with the same devotion to the fortunes of the representative of the illustrious house of O'Neill which so strikingly characterised his active and gallant brother, the chivalrous Red Hugh.

The Catholic church of Donegal is situated in the street that extends from the north-eastern part of the Diamond. It is a handsome oblong building, of about sixteen years' standing, and is entered in the centre of its gabled front by an ornamental porch, each extremity of which ends in a stately pinnacle. A fine Gothic window appears in each side of the front, which extends beyond the porch, with five of the same character in each of the side walls of the church; while the apex of the gable is surmounted by a belfry containing a good bell. The union workhouse is situated in the suburbs, about a quarter of a mile from this church; and in the same vicinity, on the side of a mountain stream which empties itself into the river Esk, is an extensive flour-mill. About a quarter of a mile from the town in another direction, and on the south bank of the river Esk, as it flows onward to the bay, are situated the remains of the monastery founded in the year 1474, for Friars of the Observantine order, by Hugh O'Donnel, son of the Prince of Tyrconnel, and by his wife, Fiongala, daughter of O'Brien, Prince of Thomond. This house has been rendered particularly famous as being the convent wherein were compiled the annals of Donegal, generally called the "Annals of the Four Masters." Several portions of this renowned abbey spread themselves over the surrounding churchyard, the walls in general being very thick, and composed of an enduring limestone. The sides and arch of the eastern or grand chancel window, which occupied the entire end of the church, are still remaining, and afford a tolerably

accurate notion of what this remarkable place was in former days. Portions of the side walls and western gable are also standing, as well as those of the north transept. The south gable of what may have been an extensive chapel, with its fine Gothic window, is still entire, and stands apart from the church already mentioned. On the north side of the ruins is a row of arches, supported by nice coupled columns, which may be supposed to have formed portions of the cloisters. Some of the altar niches are to be seen in the principal ruin, and many inscriptional stones, partially worn, so as to obliterate the lettering on several parts of them. This very interesting remnant of former times is finely situated above the deep waters which may be considered as forming the head of the harbour, and must, in its palmy days of piety and grandeur, have derived no small advantage from its admirable position in the immediate vicinity of commerce and navigation, whereby most of the necessaries and many of the luxuries of life were conveyed up to its very walls. The several islands at the head of the bay, with the neat and fanciful villas by which they are enriched and beautified, can be seen to great advantage from the cemetery in which the ruins are situated. In the year 1612, James I. conferred a charter of incorporation on the town, from which period until the passing of the Act of Union it continued to send two members to parliament. On the abolition of the franchise the sum of £15,000, granted as compensation, was paid to the Earl of Arran. A like sum was paid to the Earl of Belmore at the same period for the loss of the franchise of Ballyshannon. This town, which is a parish in the barony of Tyrhugh, is about 24 miles from Lifford, and 113 from Dublin. A parochial school was erected here several years ago, on a plot of ground granted by the Earl of Arran; there is also a school here supported from funds granted by the trustees of Erasmus Smith's Charity. About half a mile from the town, on the road leading to Mountcharles, a handsome school has recently been erected by the National Board of Education. The rectory is situated at a short distance from this school. There is likewise a dispensary in the town. The market, which is held on Saturday, is very well supplied, as are the fairs, which are held on the second Friday of each month. Herrings and sprats in great abundance are taken in the bay.

The tourist who visits Donegal should not leave it without paying a visit to Mountcharles, a village which stands on a commanding eminence about three miles from that town. It consists of a single street, which contains a small market-house, a school under the trustees of Erasmus Smith's Charity, a dispensary, a post-office, and a police barrack. There are eight fairs held here in the year. On arriving at this village the tourist will, as a matter of course, ascend the celebrated mount from which it takes its name, which rises at the upper end of the street, and from the summit of which can be obtained one of the most extensive prospects to be enjoyed in any part of Ireland. The whole expanse of country for many miles, including portions of six or seven

counties, comes under observation; while the horizon from east to west is encompassed by a chain of lofty mountains of the greatest variety and sublimity. The inner portions of this vast space are interspersed with hills presenting rich and beautiful undulations. On the south-west the great Atlantic becomes open to view, and is rendered visible by the capacious mouth of the Donegal Bay. The fine marine residence of the Marquis of Conyngham, called the Hall, is situated south and east of the village, and is sheltered on the north and west by a richly planted elevation, which rises in amphitheatrical form, in which is embosomed the widely-spreading lawn and the fine square mansion. Fish in large quantities are taken along the shore at this place, and a good pier has lately been erected for the convenience of those engaged in this branch of industry. The Most Noble Marquis is the owner of large property in this part of Ireland, his estate extending from St. John's Point nearly to the Rosses. The tourist, while proceeding from Donegal to Strabane, enjoys a great treat in the variety of wild and picturesque scenes which display themselves along this line. The first of these presents itself about three miles from the former town, where Lough Esk, which lies between lofty mountains, appears—its broad surface, from the darkening shadows of the overhanging rocks, being tinged with a leaden hue. Fine fishing can be had in this lake, as it abounds in trout and salmon. At the distance of about a mile from the upper extremity of this lake, the tourist approaches the "Pass of Barnes," which is formed in the gorge of the bold and lofty Barnesmore mountains, whose towering summits stand at a comparatively short distance from each other; their uplifted heads being at once compact, hoary, and drear, without a particle of verdure, as not a blade of grass appears to grow upon them. The sublimity and wild grandeur of this barren region challenge a comparison with, and can scarcely be exceeded by, the great Killery mountains of the county of Mayo. For more than three miles the traveller passes through a close defile, where no human habitation meets his eye, nor any creature, save a few sheep that browse upon the bases of the mountains, and, during the summer and autumn season, pick among the stunted heath a scanty and precarious subsistence. On the narrow banks of the intersecting stream which flows through the dark defile, a few young heifers are occasionally to be seen scattered up and down, and during these seasons are enabled to obtain a stinted pasturage from the thin herbage. In the winter season the whole region becomes deserted, as no living thing could find the means of existing within its precincts. I did not see a single bird of any kind within this wild and inhospitable district during my progress through it. On the verge of a hill near the eastern extremity of the pass are the remains of a small military barrack, where, in consequence of the repeated robberies which were committed upon travellers some years ago, the authorities deemed it expedient to station a party of soldiers. This well-meant protective establishment, it appears, had not the intended

effect, for, according to the account which I received, robberies became more frequent than before the troops were posted there; and many persons went so far as to say that the soldiers, instead of being protectors, became in reality depredators. Emerging from this part of the wild mountain glen, the north side of which is the property of the representatives of the late Sir Edmund Hayes, Bart., M.P., and that on the south, part of the estate of Lord Lifford, the tourist will enter a district where the mountains, though less elevated, are still wild and spreading. After passing over a couple of miles of bog-land, he will next arrive at Lough Mourne, which is about a mile in length and abounds in pike, which are so voracious as to destroy all other kinds of fish. An ingenious method has been adopted for capturing these ravenous creatures, consisting of lines attached to a log of wood, the hooks of which are baited with horseflesh or some such substance. Dogs, trained for the purpose, are at stated periods sent forth, which at once proceed in search of the logs, that are left to drift as circumstances may direct, and when they have dragged them to the shore, return to the houses of their respective owners without in any manner meddling with the fish. It is said that these dogs are lazy and indolent, and totally unfit for any other use. The lakes in this county, although somewhat numerous, are but small, the largest of them being Lough Derg, which is situated in the southern extremity of the county, about seven miles from Lough Mourne. It comprises about 3,214 acres, and contains within it St. Patrick's Purgatory, long celebrated as a place of pilgrimage, and still frequented by large numbers at certain seasons of the year.

Passing onwards from Lough Mourne, the traveller will soon arrive at the extreme verge of the Barnesmore range of mountains, and enter a more genial neighbourhood. Before arriving at the village of Ballibofey, he will leave Lord Lifford's seat on the right, it being situated on the opposite side of a dark and rugged mountain. From the village of Ballibofey can be obtained a view of the extensive demesne of the late Sir E. Hayes, Bart., called Drumboe; and in the same neighbourhood a handsome demesne, part of the lands of Tyrcallen, the property of the Marquis of Conyngham, which can be distinguished at a considerable distance by the handsome tower that stands upon a richly-planted elevation within the demesne. Crossing a bridge of three lofty arches, which spans the river Finn at this place, the tourist will enter the village of Stranorlar, where there are a plain Protestant church, and an equally plain Catholic church, with a couple of good hotels, one of them distinguished by the royal arms, and the other by those of the Marquis of Conyngham. The workhouse of the union is in the vicinity of this town.

Passing through Killygordan, a neat and clean village, having no remarkable feature in connection with it, the traveller will soon arrive at Donoughmore, where there is a small church, and at a short distance from it the handsome residence of the rector. This is also the

Protestant church of Castle Finn, at which place he will soon arrive. Here are situated a Roman Catholic church, a large and small cotton factory, and also a flax mill. Along this line flax is very generally cultivated; and ricks, not unlike those of hay in other districts, are frequently to be seen. I noticed several persons, both men and women, employed in preparing this valuable article for the market. Several small flax mills were at work along this line, some of them in low thatched cabins, where the mountain streams were brought to bear upon the tiny wheels. The inhabitants of this part of Ireland are a truly industrious and thrifty race, and are generally employed in some sort of traffic, which prevents them, at least to some extent, from being entirely dependent upon the land for support.

Crossing the Finn river by a bridge of nine arches, which leads to the village of Cauldy, the tourist can trace the windings of this noble stream in its progress towards Strabane, by the green embankments which have been raised on both sides of it to protect the adjoining lands against the floods of winter. Even with all the protection thus afforded, so great are the torrents caused by heavy and constant rain, or by the melting of the snow upon the mountains, that the low grounds are frequently submerged. Pathways have been ingeniously formed along the sides and summits of the embankments, whereby the cattle are enabled to graze upon the pasture with which they are clothed.

About two miles from Strabane, the tourist becomes struck with the beautiful village of Urney, where there is a very nice Protestant church, a small edifice in the Grecian style of architecture. The Rev. Mr. Gough, son to the Very Rev. the Dean of Derry, and nephew to General Lord Viscount Gough, is the rector of this parish. The town of Strabane, which is in the county of Tyrone, and a fine business place, is situated on both sides of the Mourne river, the principal part being on the north side. That portion of it on the south side consists of a single street called Bridge Street, and may be considered as the suburbs. It communicates with the northern section by a handsome stone bridge of eight arches, which here crosses the river. The same river is spanned, at some distance west of the town, by a neat lattice bridge, over which the railway passes; after flowing beneath which it forms a junction with the river Finn, and thus united, both rivers form the Foyle, which thence flows downwards to Londonderry. The market-house, a handsome structure of oblong form, stands about the centre of the main street, and is surmounted by a turret, in which there is a public clock. The flax and potato markets are situated within an enclosed quadrangular area, near the market-house, and are entered by three arches with iron gates, the central one being ornamented with rustic masonry. The principal market is held on Tuesday, but there are others on Thursday and Saturday. Before the opening of the line of railway, this was considered one of the greatest corn markets in the north of Ireland, as the

principal portions of the produce of the counties of Tyrone and Fermanagh were brought here, and conveyed by the canal to Londonderry. The markets, however, are still well supplied with both corn and butter. The shops in this town are very good, and appear to command a remunerative business. There are two or three hotels here; one of which, called the Abercorn Arms, kept by Mr. Simmons, is an excellent house. The Bowling Green, the name given to a capacious quadrangle in the eastern part of the town, is surrounded by some handsome houses, among which are the Provincial and Belfast Banks. A fountain has been erected in the centre of this square.

The Protestant church, a cruciform building, with a plain belfry standing above the western gable, is situated within a spacious cemetery, which is surrounded with handsome trees. Adjoining this churchyard is a large Wesleyan Methodist chapel; there is another house of worship of the same persuasion in the town, and also two Presbyterian meeting-houses.

The Catholic church is situated in the extreme eastern end of the town, and is a cruciform edifice, with a pinnacled and embattled tower standing at the western end of the nave. From the summit of the tower rises a light and slender turret, supporting a ball and cross. There was at this time an extensive sewing establishment carried on here by Mr. James Kennedy, in which a large number of young females found constant employment; there is also a large brewery in the town. About the distance of a mile from the town is situated a romantic vale called the "Glen of Strabane," which, being richly planted, possesses characteristics of a picturesque and very attractive nature, that cause it to be greatly frequented by the inhabitants in the summer season.

Lifford, the county or assize town of Donegal, a comparatively insignificant place, is situated on the western bank of the Finn Water, about a statute mile from Strabane. This river, which is here crossed by a massive stone bridge of twelve arches, divides the counties of Donegal and Tyrone; the Mourne river forms its junction with it at a short distance south of this bridge. The square of Lifford, a spacious quadrangle, which forms the centre and principal part of the town, is occupied on its eastern side by the jail, which, from the restorations and new additions recently made upon it, presents an imposing and rather prepossessing appearance. The Court House occupies the south side, and is a fine substantial building in the Doric style of architecture, with a slightly projecting centre and wings. The north side of the square contains the County House, where some of the public offices are kept, and where the grand jury dine during the assizes; and also an endowed school, and the residence of the Protestant curate, who is the chaplain of the prison. The Protestant church, a plain oblong building, with Gothic windows and a pinnacled and embattled tower, is situated at a short distance from the square on the north side. The Roman Catholic church of

the parish is situated at some distance from the town. The constabulary barrack is one of a small number of handsome private houses recently erected by an enterprising speculator, and is a very neat dwelling, with an ornamental front in the Elizabethan style.

There is likewise a small military barrack here, capable of accommodating a single company of infantry. There is no market held here, as the town being so near to Strabane, the inhabitants are supplied with the requisite articles from the abundant markets held there. The County Infirmary, a building of long standing, is finely situated immediately south of the bridge, and somewhat detached from the town. Leaving this handsome but dull and unbusiness-like small town, I proceeded by the railway from Strabane to Londonderry, and at St. Johnstown noticed a Presbyterian meeting-house; and at Porthall, the canal to Strabane, which branches from the river Foyle. Arriving at Londonderry, I at once set out for Moville, and found the ride very agreeable, as the weather was exceedingly fine, and the road in excellent condition. Passing onwards, I noticed in the environs of Londonderry, Foyle College, an old and long established seminary very favourably situated, the adjoining grounds of which are embellished with handsome plantations.

CHAPTER XVI.

ENNISHOWEN AND OTHER PORTIONS OF ULSTER.

ABOUT five miles from the Maiden City, we passed through Muff, a nice village, with a neat small Protestant church, apparently of long standing, in the Grecian style of architecture. Not far from this place, on a lofty eminence, stands the ruin of Aileach Castle, which for many centuries was the residence of the princes of this district of country. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, it was occupied by the brave and formidable chieftains, the O'Doghertys.

At the village of Drung, which is about half-way between Londonderry and Moville, is a small and plain Roman Catholic church.

The most remarkable feature in this neighbourhood is Red Castle, the strikingly beautiful seat of James Sheil Doherty, Esq., which is romantically situated above the shore of the now widely-spreading Foyle. The grounds comprising the demesne are very richly planted, and appear to the greatest advantage. Miss Doherty, sister to the above-named gentleman, resides in a handsome villa at a short distance from her brother's mansion. A new and very beautiful small Protestant church, in the pointed Gothic style of architecture, with a handsome belfry on its western gable, appears among nice plantations on the side of the road near this place. In the neighbourhood of Moville, a small fishing pier was erected some years since by the Board of Works, aided by funds subscribed by the owners of property and by other opulent persons residing in the district. Schooners and smacks occasionally discharge coal and take in corn at this quay. A small steamer was lying abreast the quay on the day upon which I passed. Besides the twin lights at the mouth of the Foyle, there are six lights at various distances along the river. The houses from which these beacons are displayed, are small structures, of conical form, supported on piles, one man only being in charge of each of them.

At Ballybrack, which is about a mile and a half from the town of Moville, is a Roman Catholic church, of comparatively modern erection, a plain oblong structure, without any external ornament save the characteristic cross that rises from its western gable, and the label-mouldings which decorate the Gothic arches of the windows, of which there are five in each side of the building and one on each side of the

door in the western end. At a short distance from Green Castle, on a rocky elevation, is situated a small and very plain Protestant church, with an embattled tower, from each angle of which rises a pinnacle surmounted by a light Latin cross. Standing as it does on the southern extremity of the churchyard, a popular burial-place, it appears a conspicuous object and a remarkably striking feature, as viewed from the river and the capacious bay. A safety harbour for the convenience of the fishermen has been constructed in these late years at Green Castle. The pier, which is formed between dense rocks, extends a distance of 200 yards from east to west, with an arm on the western extremity projecting in a northerly direction to a distance of about 35 yards, the roadway or quay being about 30 feet wide. Handsome houses, seven in number, have been erected here for the accommodation of the coast-guards stationed at this point. Previously to their erection, a revenue cutter was wont to be stationed in this part of the river.

The inhabitants of this district appear to be tolerably comfortable, which is owing in a great measure to the advantage they derive from the fishery, as the land is of a poor and light description. The castle, from which this village takes its name, is a noble ruin, and very well deserving of a visit. According to the "Annals of the Four Masters," it was originally built by Richard de Burgo, known as the Red Earl of Ulster, in 1305, for the purpose of subduing the O'Neills and O'Donnels, and of holding in check the Scots, who were wont to make incursions into this part of Donegal. It is also stated by the same high authority, that Walter, son of Sir Walter Burke, was taken prisoner by the Earl of Ulster in 1332, and confined in the new castle of Inishowen, where he afterwards died of hunger. It subsequently came into the hands of the O'Doghertys, the chieftains of the district, who, doubtless, were the owners of the site upon which it was erected. The castle, of which the present ruins are the remnants, was erected or rebuilt by Sir Caher O'Dogherty in the fifteenth century, and from its great strength and commanding position, must have been of immense importance to its feudal proprietors. It occupied a rocky site, the surface of which is about 100 yards long and 56 broad; and from the strength of its walls, which in some places are 12 feet thick, and the character of its defences, was doubtless considered almost impregnable in those days of incessant tumult and strife.

On the south side, the precipitous face of a dense iron rock, rising to a considerable height above the deep waters of the Foyle, formed a natural bastion calculated to defy every assault; while on the land side the massive square and octangular towers would seem to have been such as to insure perfect security against the most formidable aggression; and yet, notwithstanding these great natural and artificial advantages, it appears to have been the first of the strongholds in this part of Ireland which at a subsequent period fell into the hands of the

English, and was granted to Sir Edward Chichester. A deep ravine divides it on the east from the verdant mount upon which, several years ago, a fortress, consisting of a tower and strong battery, was erected for the defence of the entrance to the river. There is also a battery on the opposite side of the Foyle, which at this part is rendered but a mile in breadth by the tongue of land which extends in a northerly direction from the Derry side. This battery is on the extremity of the projection which is called Macgilligan's Point. From the elevation which forms the site of Green Castle can be seen Portrush and the hills of the Giant's Causeway; and in a south-easterly direction the fine mansion called Down Hill, the seat of Sir Henry Hervey Bruce, Bart., formerly the residence of the Earl of Bristol, Lord Bishop of Derry, which was nearly burned down about seven or eight years since. The fire continued for nearly two days, and the damage sustained was estimated at £12,000.

At some distance north-west of Green Castle, in an open space, are the remains of an ecclesiastical building, which, in the absence of accurate information, might be supposed to have been the chapel of the castle. Lewis, however, in his elaborate topographical work, says that it is supposed to have been a monastery belonging to the Knights Templars; but on what authority, the most learned and astute persons in the neighbourhood, including some of the clergy, with whom I conversed on the subject, cannot divine. Unlike most of the religious establishments the remains of which are to be seen in various parts of the country, there are no traditions known to the inhabitants of the district regarding it.

The fashionable watering-place Moville is finely situated on the side of a hill sloping gradually down to the sea. The houses are for the most part new, and as they were erected with a view to the accommodation of visitors in the bathing season, respectable. The town consists of two or three streets branching from a handsome square, in which are a couple of good hotels, a post-office, and an enclosed market-place. The market is held on Thursday, and there are four fairs in the year. It is considered a very beautiful place, far receding as it does from the spreading waters of the sea-like Foyle, and being open to the balmy breezes of the south, as they are wafted from the enviable Myroe, and Faughan Vale, on the Londonderry side; and encircled on each side and in the rear by steep hills, and in the distance by lofty mountains, it is admirably suited to minister to the health and comfort and also to the pleasure of those who may be induced to make it their home for the summer season.

There is one peculiarity connected with Moville, which is, that the inhabitants themselves have been the architects by whom it has arrived at its present importance, each having, by his own industry and enterprise, built the house in which he resides, independently of landlord support or encouragement; so that every man in the town may be said to live in his own house. The shops in this place, for a

town of its class, are very respectable, and afford evidence of reasonably-good business. The ancient churchyard, which, as we are informed, was the burial-place of St. Finnian, is situated on the side of a sloping elevation north-west of the town, and within a short distance of a mansion of long standing called Summer Hill. Portions of the ancient chapel are still standing. In the immediate vicinity of Moville, a finely-rounded elevation called St. Columbkill's Hill is pointed out to the visitor. It is cultivated to its summit in the ordinary manner, and is entirely destitute of ornament, with the exception of a large thorn, which on the south grows at its foot. It is said that on this hill the good saint was wont to indulge in innocent pastime surrounded by the children of the village. Meet companions those for one so gentle and so free from guile. In such moments, doubtless, he remembered the endearing words of his Divine Master, when he said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and prevent them not." This illustrious saint, who was born in the year 521, was of royal lineage, being descended in the fourth degree from Nial the Great, by his son Conal, Prince Tyrconnel, chief of the noble tribe of the O'Donnels; while his mother, Æthena, was of an eminent and princely house of Leinster. His birth-place was the barony of Kilmacrenan, in this county, and his name, originally Crimthan, was, by reason of the dove-like gentleness and simplicity of his character, changed afterwards to Columba. To this was added, in course of time, the surname of Kille, making the title by which he was from thenceforth distinguished, Columkill, or Columba of the Churches. The word *kille* signifies "church," and as this saint founded more than a hundred churches and religious houses, the appendage to his name has ever been considered pertinent and appropriate.

Of the different schools where he pursued his studies, the most celebrated was that of St. Finnian at Clonard, where having fully completed his educational course, he early commenced those active labours by which he acquired a lasting and imperishable fame. He had only arrived at his twenty-fifth year when he founded the monastery and church called Daire Calgach, near Lough Foyle, from which the name of the town or city of Derry was derived. Soon after, proceeding to the southern part of ancient Meath, he erected another monastery equally famous, on a site called *Dairmagh*, or the "Plain of the Oaks," which, as we are informed, was given as an offering "to God and St. Columba" by a pious chieftain named Brendan. He subsequently chose another field for his spiritual labours; the condition of the Northern Picts of Britain, who were still sunk in the darkness of Paganism, presenting such a scene of holy action as his ardent zeal and ambition desired. Having obtained from his relative Conal, who was then King of the Albanian Scots, a grant of the small island of Hy, or Iona, which was an appendage to the new kingdom, he in the year 563, together with twelve of his disciples, set sail for that sequestered isle. On arriving here, one of his first acts was to expel from

it a number of Druids, who had established themselves on the island, which had from a very early period been one of the haunts of their priesthood. "Having," says his biographer, "erected a monastery and church on this island, he then directed his attention to the principal object of his great enterprise, which was that of penetrating and exploring the wild regions of Scotland beyond the range of the Grampians, where no missionary before himself had yet ventured." To follow this great saint in his successful career of charity and zeal, even if I had sufficient space at my command, is beyond my province. I shall therefore merely say that after accomplishing, as far as possible, all the great objects he had in view, he returned to the home of his adoption, that "Isle of his heart," as in some prophetic verses attributed to him, Iona is called, and there attended with assiduity to the cares of his monasteries and numerous churches till death closed his glorious and laborious mission.

The ride from Londonderry to Moville is very interesting, as not only the chain of lofty mountains on the north, and the noble river Foyle on the south, are open to the view, but also the magnificent Derry mountains, on the opposite side of the river, display themselves, and add considerably to the sublimity of the scene—the whole being calculated to engender feelings of unqualified admiration.

I cannot take my leave of the county of Donegal without giving expression to the favourable impressions created in my mind by the people of the district in general, but more especially by those of the western portion of it, including the sea-coast line, who are a fine, hardy, and well-favoured people, and may be considered excellent specimens of their early Celtic type. As in Connemara, Joyce's Country, and other parts of the counties of Galway and Mayo, where the genuine descendants of the Celtic race are to be found, the tourist will find in the mountain districts of Donegal a population whose unmistakable characteristics, in which may be included their religion and their language, declare them to be descended from the same race. They are also remarkable for the same quickness, intelligence, and buoyancy of spirit, which endowments enable them to contend with whatever crosses an all-wise and merciful Providence may be pleased to visit them; and in these late years of distress, arising from blight and loss of crops, they have been sorely tried. Another distinguishing trait in their character is their strong and never-dying love of home; and though, by the force and pressure of adverse circumstances, many of them have been obliged to leave the country of their affections and the home of their hearts, they have given strong and innumerable proofs of their attachment to their native land; by the comparatively large remittances they from time to time transmitted to the relatives and friends they left behind. This enthusiastic attachment to home has doubtless been strengthened, if not engendered, by their cherished predilection for legendary tales, especially those that treat of the heroic achievements of their ancient kings and chiefs, which, we have reason

to suppose, exercise a powerful influence over their unsophisticated feelings. Extravagant as some of these imaginative legends may be, they are not devoid of usefulness, as they call up pleasing recollections of the past, and prepare the mind to receive cheerful impressions of a happier future, and thus furnish the intellect with ideas which are calculated to keep the imagination occupied, and thereby serve to create an innocent gaiety and inoffensive flow of spirits.

From whatever cause it may arise, it is generally admitted that it would be exceedingly difficult to find a nation whose lower orders possess the courtesy, the sentiment, and the tact, which are the distinguishing characteristics of the humbler classes of this country. With such fine natural qualities, and their accompanying elasticity of temperament, the great body of the Irish people, if properly treated and judiciously cultured, would be fully capable of taking their stand beside their English fellow-subjects, and, in an open and generous rivalry, contending with them in the utilitarian race to which the British empire owes its greatness; and, doubtless, with the same degree of comparative success with which so many of their educated and gifted countrymen have been enabled to achieve the statesman's high renown and to win the soldier's laurel and the poet's bay. May such henceforward be the nature of the rivalry which shall exist between the people of both countries, which, from their situation and general character, were intended by nature to be friends and sisters; and may a mutual forbearance and a firm resolution of sinking in a generous oblivion the errors and follies of the past, with an equally firm determination of endeavouring to lay the foundation of a higher and happier future, be the aim and ambition of rival parties at home. With such amicable dispositions the greatest amount of good might be effected—such, for instance, as obtaining for the farming class in Ireland a security of tenure, which would have the effect of developing the agricultural wealth of the country, which, when properly amalgamated with the manufacturing and commercial wealth of England, could not fail to give a still higher prestige and potency to the government, and would also be mainly instrumental in saving Ireland from the misery and disgrace of periodical starvation. Reflections like these take possession of the mind of the intelligent tourist as he muses amid the mountains, and visits the numerous bays, of the country of the O'Donnels and the O'Doghertys, the romantic and far-famed Donegal.

Returning from Ennishowen, I was obliged to remain in Londonderry for the morning train, in order to proceed to Enniskillen, and availed myself of this delay to visit St. Columb's new Catholic cathedral, which I found was progressing very rapidly, the side walls being raised to their full height. The great chancel window and the tower were beginning to display their magnificent proportions; while the finely-arched porch on the western extremity of the south side, and the very handsome sacristy on the eastern extremity of the north side,

were in a very forward state. The fine white sandstone which constitutes the ornamental parts of the building is capable of being fashioned into any shape with the greatest ease, and therefore considerably facilitated the progress of the work. The cost up to the time when I paid this visit was £12,000. The extent and beauty of this fine cathedral entitle it to rank among the great churches recently erected and now in progress of erection in Ireland—namely, St. Patrick's at Armagh, St. Mell's at Longford; and the great cathedrals of Killarney, Kilkenny, and St. John's at Limerick. Proceeding from Londonderry to Enniskillen, the tourist will notice, about half a mile from Strabane, the ruin of a venerable castle called Mount Gavelin. Somewhat farther on are Sion Mills, one of which is a splendid flax-mill, built by Mr. Hardman. This is a magnificent structure of the kind, and can bear a comparison with some of the best mills in Belfast. We soon arrived at Newtown-Stewart, a very handsome town, situated on the western bank of the Mourne river and at the foot of a lofty mountain. The river sweeps before it in an ample curve, while the mountain range surrounds and shelters it on the west. It derives considerable advantage as a place of business from its situation halfway between the most important towns of the county, Tyrone, Omagh, and Strabane. It consists of two or three principal streets and an equal number of smaller ones. The houses, in general, are neat and well built, with some very nice shops and a couple of good hotels. The market is held on Monday, and is well supplied with the chief articles of agricultural produce. Fairs are held on the last Monday of each month, and are very well attended. The Protestant church, which is situated on a gentle eminence, is a large and handsome structure, with a light and elegant octagonal spire. There is a Roman Catholic church in the town; there are also houses of worship here for Presbyterians and Wesleyan Methodists.

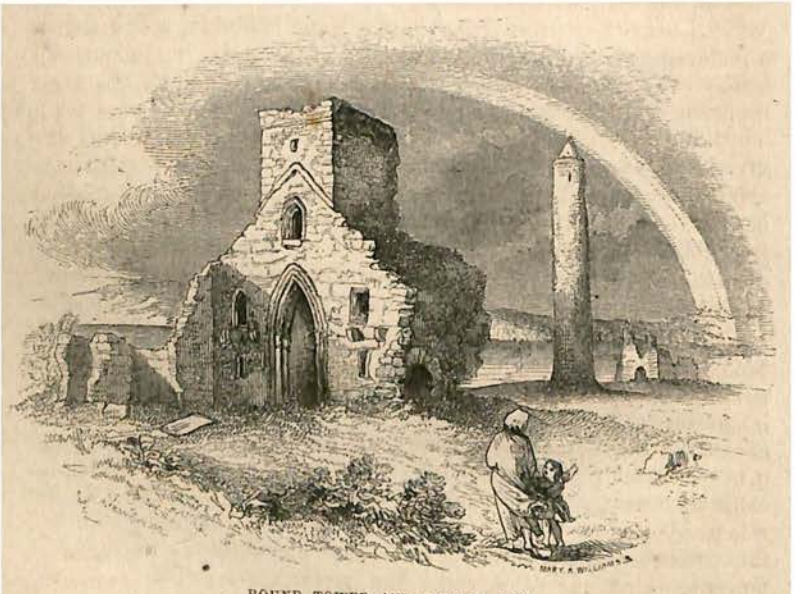
Arriving at Enniskillen the tourist will find much to interest him, as, with the exception of Armagh, it is unquestionably one of the nicest inland towns in the north, or perhaps in Ireland. The difference, however, between it and the primatial city is more than counterbalanced by the unrivalled scenery of Lough Erne, in which it is situated. This great lake, which is environed by lofty mountains, may be said in reality to consist of two lakes, extending to a length of nearly forty miles in a direction from north-west to south-east, and connected by a deep strait, whose windings form the island upon which the town stands. The town is connected with the main-land by two handsome bridges of five arches each, which are the only approaches to it. One fine capacious street, from which branch a couple of others, intersects the town, and extends from the bridge which crosses the surrounding water on the eastern side to that which spans it on the west. This and the two other streets contain many fine private houses and elegant shops. The Court House, a handsome building, is situated in the main street and in the eastern end of

the town. It is entered beneath a portico formed by four Doric columns supporting an entablature, with two windows on each side of the portico, and five in each of the two upper stories. At the foot of the bridge in this end of the town has recently been erected a handsome brick edifice, with door facings and window edgings of pure granite. This fine ornamental building is called the Conservative Hall, and was built by subscription; the Marquis of Ely and the Earl of Enniskillen being amongst the most liberal contributors to the fund for its erection. The town-hall is situated in the centre of the principal street, and is a good building, the upper story of which is appropriated to assembly-rooms, and the lower story to a library and reading rooms. The Protestant church, a very fine building, is situated in the ancient churchyard, which occupies a handsome eminence immediately adjoining the main street, at some distance west of the town-hall. It consists of a nave and side aisles, with an elegant tower of three stories, from which springs a light and graceful spire. Graduating buttresses, ending in light pilasters, rise on the angles of the tower, and terminate in ornamental pinnacles; while a rich parapet decorates the sides. On the sides of the aisles also rise graduating buttresses, ending in beautiful pinnacles, between which appear the fine Gothic windows, six on each side. The interior of the church is really beautiful; the splendid arches, six on each side, springing from elegant clustered columns, and dividing the nave from the aisles, being very grand; above the crown of the arches appear the nice clerestory windows. The groinings of the ceilings, which are very fine, spring from corbelled ornaments. Galleries extend along the sides and western end of the nave; in the rear of the latter is the magnificent organ. In the vicinity of the east or chancel window are some handsome monuments, one on the right of the communion table being a fine statue of John Willoughby, the late Earl of Enniskillen, K.S.P; and on the left, one of his brother, the Honourable Sir Galbraith Lowry Cole, G.C.B., colonel of the 27th Inniskillen Regiment of Foot. The Catholic church, an excellent house of worship, is also situated in the principal street, nearly opposite the Protestant church. The handsome gabled front, which is surmounted by an embattled range, is entered by a centre and side doors, over each of which is a well-proportioned semi-Gothic window. The area in front of the entrance is planted with evergreens and other decorative shrubs, which give it a fresh and pleasing appearance. There are places of worship for Presbyterians and Wesleyan Methodists in the town. A handsome column has been erected on a finely-planted eminence within the precincts of the town, as a monument to General Cole, and is a very striking and ornamental feature. The county jail, built about forty years ago and constructed on the radiating principle, is situated in the eastern suburbs, near the railway station. The barracks, which are large and commodious, and suited to accommodate artillery and infantry, are situated in the western part of the town. On a hand-

some eminence above the curving stream, which flows round the western side of the town, or island, stands the celebrated and very fine school, where education on an enlarged and liberal scale is imparted to the pupils. There are four good hotels in the town, one of which, a house recently built beyond the eastern bridge and in the vicinity of the railway station, is called the Victoria, and is kept by an English gentleman named Landon. The terms at this establishment are moderate and the accommodation good. At the foot of the eastern bridge is a very small island, nicely planted and presenting a pretty appearance. Some of the inhabitants allege that the town takes its name, and the Earl of Enniskillen his title, from this tiny islet. Markets for grain, butter, and butchers' meat have been lately erected here; the principal market is held on Thursday, and that for butter on Tuesday. Fairs are held, under a patent granted to the Earl of Enniskillen, on the 10th of each month, with the exception of March, May, and August.

Enniskillen is a parish and Parliamentary borough partly in the barony of Magheraboy, but chiefly in that of Tyrkennedy, in the county of Fermanagh, about twenty-two miles from Ballyshannon, and eighty-one from Dublin. It takes its name from the island in Lough Erne on which it is situated, or, as some allege, from the small island already alluded to; and was formerly called Inniskillen. The town, although now the capital of the county, is not of great antiquity, as, previously to the time of James I., it was merely a stronghold of the powerful native chief, Maguire, who had a castle here. This castle was taken by the English forces under Sir Richard Bingham, in the year 1594; but no sooner had that general retired, leaving a garrison for its protection, than it was besieged and taken by O'Donnel, and his confederates. The situation being considered advantageous in a military point of view, and also well suited for a town, induced James I., in 1612, to make a grant of one-third of the island to William Cole, Esq., ancestor to the Earl of Enniskillen, on the condition of his building a town upon it. On the breaking out of the war in 1641, the town was successfully defended by its founder and governor, then Sir William Cole. During the war of the Revolution, the inhabitants adopted the cause of William III., to whom they adhered with great constancy. The island upon which the town stands is situated in the narrowest part of the lough, which may be designated a strait, several miles in length, that connects the great northern and southern portions of the lake. In the suburb beyond the eastern bridge is an old redoubt, called the East Fort; and in that beyond the western bridge is another, called the West Fort. The principal trade of the town is in timber, coal, and slates, which are imported from Ballyshannon to Belleek, at the lower extremity of Lough Erne, which is eighteen miles distant, and conveyed by water to the town. A charter of incorporation was granted to this place by James I., in 1613, with the right of sending two members to the Irish parliament; but since

the Union but one member is returned to the Imperial parliament. The principal feature in this county is the great Lough Erne, which, as before stated, consists of two lakes; the upper or southern lake being about twelve miles in length and four and a half in breadth, from its commencement at a place called Lake Head, about a quarter of a mile from Lisneskea. The northern or lower lake, between Belleek and Enniskillen, is the larger, being nearly twenty miles in length and about seven miles in its greatest breadth. Both are studded with numerous islands, the upper containing as many as 109, and the lower 90. Cow Island, so called on account of the richness of its pasture, is the largest in the upper lake. Ennismacsaint, so celebrated for its burial-ground, which is held in great veneration, is likewise situated in the upper lake. Devenish Island, also in the upper lake, near Enniskillen, is rendered particularly remarkable for its antiquities, including its round tower. This island derives its early importance from a religious establishment which was founded and dedicated to the Blessed Virgin by St. Laserian, also called St. Molaisse, and subsequently Molush. The remains of the building called the Lower Church, dedicated to St. Molush, are 76 feet in length and 21 in breadth. In its vicinity is another building, 30 feet long and 15 feet wide, with a roof composed entirely of cut stone. Near the



ROUND TOWER AND CHURCH RUIN.

summit of the hill are the remains of the abbey, the ruined church of which is 94 feet long and 24 feet wide; with a large aisle on its north side, and near the centre an arch of black marble, resting on four

pillars and supporting a bell-tower, with a grand winding staircase leading to the summit. Near the church is the fine round tower, in a high state of preservation, composed of cut stone. It is 82 feet in height and 49 in circumference, and is crowned with a conical roof. The door is about 4 feet in height and 7 from the ground. There are apertures or windows at different stages, four of which are immediately below the summit, facing the cardinal points. St. Nicholas's Well, to which, on account of its supposed efficacy in various diseases, numbers resort, is within 100 yards of the abbey. Some of the most important of the other islands are Innismore, Eagle Island, Innisnakill, Gully, Cor, Ferney, and Herring Island, so called from a fresh-water herring that is found near its shores. Belleisle and Lady Rosse's Island are very beautiful, the banks on each side, as well as the islands themselves, being clothed with stately timber. Fish, consisting of salmon, trout, pike, and eels, are found in various parts of the lake; while herons and other aquatic fowl abound among the islands. Florence Court, the beautiful mansion of the Earl of Enniskillen, stands in a large and richly-planted demesne, situated in the parish of Killasher, and is well worthy of the tourist's attention. There are a Roman Catholic church and Wesleyan Methodist place of worship in this parish. Here, also, are some remarkable caves, the ruins of an old church, and some mineral springs.

Ely Lodge, the beautiful seat of the Marquis of Ely, is situated on a picturesque island in Lough Erne, and is connected by a handsome bridge with the main-land. The view from this delightful and elegant residence comprises features of the rarest beauty, in which are combined the invaluable adjuncts of wood and water. Castle Cool, the grand seat of the Earl of Belmore, is also situated in this enviable neighbourhood, and for richness and beauty can scarcely be exceeded in the North of Ireland. The mansion especially is of a peculiarly splendid and costly character. Lough Erne is environed with lofty mountains, some of which extend from the neighbouring counties. The County Infirmary is situated at Enniskillen.

Fermanagh, which is an inland county, is bounded on the east by Monaghan and Tyrone, on the north by Tyrone and Donegal, on the west by Donegal and Leitrim, and on the south by Cavan. The inhabitants of this district, in the time of Ptolemy, the geographer, according to some authorities, were the Erdini, while others consider it to have been part of the territory of the Nagnatæ. It was anciently called the Country of the Lakes, and also the Country of the Waters. It was divided into two great portions, one of which was ruled over by the powerful sept, the MacManuses, and the other by the equally powerful chiefs, the Maguires. The latter family was so powerful, that the greater part of the county was for several centuries known as MacGuire's Country. It was first made shire ground in the reign of Elizabeth, and was one of the six counties which became forfeited to the crown by the flight of the Earls of Tyrone and Tyrconnel.

Leaving Enniskillen for Monaghan, the tourist, for about three miles, obtains admirable views of Lough Erne and of the various and finely-planted islands with which it is studded. He will also pass through several small towns and villages, among which may be mentioned Maguire's Bridge, so named from the bridge that crosses Maguire's river, which is thus called after the great Fermanagh chieftains. This is at present a very poor town, consisting of one long street, which is lined on both sides with houses of a comparatively inferior description, many of which are thatched. The Roman Catholic church, a commodious house of worship, with an attached school, is situated in the village. There are also Presbyterian and Wesleyan places of worship here.

Lisneskea presents a totally different appearance, the houses being fresh and good-looking, and the inhabitants in general employed in weaving and such-like profitable work. There is a very nice market-house here, with a butter-crane and shambles, which would reflect credit on a much larger town. Here are a Protestant church, a Catholic church, a union workhouse, and some schools.

The tourist will next arrive at Newtown-Butler, a tolerably comfortable town, consisting of one long street. It lacks, however, the elements of industry that characterise the town of Lisneskea, there being no manufactures carried on whereby the people derive employment. It is rendered somewhat remarkable in history from being the place where the Enniskilleners defeated the Irish army under the command of MacCarthy-More. There are a plain Protestant church here, a commodious Catholic church, a Wesleyan Methodist chapel, and schools under the National Board of Education.

Leaving this place, and arriving at the town of Clones, the traveller passes from the county of Fermanagh into that of Monaghan, and has the gratification to perceive that the latter county presents, in a great measure, much the same appearance, as regards the character and quality of the soil, as does the former, which is that of luxuriant richness and fertility. Clones appears to have been a place of importance at a very early period, owing to the foundation of an abbey in the sixth century, which was dedicated to SS. Peter and Paul. The ancient name of this place, we are told, was Cluan Innis, or the "Island of Retreat," it having been formerly surrounded with water. The abbey, it appears, was founded by St. Tigernach or Tierny, who, on becoming Bishop of Clogher, removed that see to Clones, where he died of the plague in the year 550. Clones is a parish partly in the barony of Clonkelly, county of Fermanagh, and partly in the baronies of Monaghan and Dartry, county of Monaghan, ten miles from the town of Monaghan, and sixty-two from Dublin. The market-place, a fine, open, spacious area of triangular shape, contains the market-house, a pump for the use of the inhabitants, and a stone cross, with a shaft about 12 feet in height. This antique emblem of man's redemption is based on a platform approached by a flight of

steps. Both the shaft and the head of the cross, which is enclosed within a circular band, are ornamented with sculptured figures. The Protestant church stands on an eminence at the upper end of the market-place, and is a handsome edifice, with an attached tower containing a bell and clock. The abbey of this place, already mentioned, was an establishment of high repute, as we find that its abbot was the first mitred abbot in Ireland. It was destroyed by fire in the year 1098; and in 1207, Hugh de Lacy, Earl of Ulster, destroyed both the abbey and the town; but five years after they were rebuilt by the English, who erected a castle here. In the year 1316, and again in 1504, the Abbot of Clones was elected Bishop of Clogher. In 1486, died the Abbot Philip MacMahon, and in 1502, the Abbot James MacMahon, both of the ancient sept of the Lords of Ergal. The manor of the abbey, still called St. Tierny, was, at the suppression of the monasteries, together with the abbey itself, granted to Sir Henry Duke. The remains of the ancient abbey, situated on the south side of the town, have been intersected—I can scarcely avoid saying desecrated—by the formation of a line of road which leads to Cootehill. Here, also, are the remains of a small chapel, situated within an ancient cemetery; and in another burial-ground is a remarkable stone monument or coffin, supposed to have been the tomb of MacMahon, one of the native chieftains. Here, also, is to be seen one of the round towers so peculiar to this country, the walls of which are about 4 feet thick, and presenting externally a rough appearance. The diameter of the interior is about 10 feet, and the walls comparatively smooth and compact. It is entered by a door which is about 4 feet above the ground, and diminishes slightly towards the top. Resting-places for some four or five floors appear at certain stages in the interior. In the vicinity of this remnant of antiquity is one of the ancient raths so common to all parts of this country. There is a fine well in the town, called Tubber Tierny. There are a handsome Catholic church, a Methodist chapel, a dispensary, and some schools in the town.

Proceeding towards Monaghan, the tourist will pass through the small village of Smithborough, which is called after an enterprising gentleman named Smith, who was instrumental in advancing the prosperity of the place by the establishment of monthly fairs, of which, however, there is but one held here at present. The ride to Monaghan along this line is really delightful, as, for a considerable distance approaching the town, the road runs between beautiful plantations, and also for some miles along the side of the canal, which, branching from Newry, extends to Belturbet. Monaghan, although small for the capital town of a county, presents many features of an interesting character, among which may be included the spacious and handsome square called the Diamond; the Protestant and Catholic churches; the Court House, jail, and market-house. The Diamond constitutes the centre of the town, and is occupied by houses of a superior description with many fine shops. The Linen Hall is situated in this square, and the

market-house in an open space at some distance from it. The town may be said to consist of the Diamond and the three streets which branch from it, as from the points of a triangle. The Protestant church, situated near the Diamond, is a very beautiful structure, in the later English style of architecture, consisting of a nave and chancel, with an attached and highly-enriched tower, from which rises a light and elegant spire. The tower is embellished with an embattled parapet, and with a finely-pointed pinnacle on each of its angles. Buttresses of light and ornamental character, also terminating in pinnacles, rise on each side of the church, between which appear the elegant slender windows. The chancel is decorated with a profusion of ornaments, including nice pinnacles, and the whole building, as well as the tower, is surrounded by an embrasure parapet. The Catholic church, a large and handsome building of oblong form, is situated in a convenient part of the town. There are also places of worship in the town for Presbyterians and Wesleyan Methodists, with schools, diocesan, parochial, and national. The County Court House, a handsome building of cut stone, is situated at the Diamond, and contains within it all the requisite offices for the public functionaries of the county. The County Infirmary is likewise situated at this open area, and is said to occupy the site of an ancient castle, in the rear of which are some old walls supposed to be the remains of the ancient abbey. The market-house, a very commodious building, was erected by the late Lord Rossmore, whose arms, finely emblazoned, appear above the entrance. The county jail, built in 1824, is situated on an eminence near the entrance to the town, and is a handsome building, of semicircular form, with apartments that admit of the necessary classification. There are barracks here for cavalry capable of rendering accommodation to about one troop.

There are a couple of hotels in the town, the principal of which, the Westenra Arms, is situated at the Diamond, and is an excellent house. Rossmore Park, the seat of the Right Honourable Lord Rossmore, who is the owner of the property on which the town stands, is situated in this neighbourhood. The mansion is in the Elizabethan style, and the demesne extensive and richly planted, containing within it scenery of a peculiarly rich and romantic description, and commanding views of an enlarged and highly picturesque character. There are several other handsome seats in the neighbourhood. The principal market is held on Saturday, but there are others held in the course of each week for the sale of corn, linen, flax, yarn, and pigs, large numbers of the latter being bred in this county.

This town, formerly a parliamentary borough, is a parish in the barony of Monaghan, about twelve miles from Armagh, and sixty from Dublin. Until within a comparatively recent period, its only claim to the notice of the historian as a place of importance arose from the foundation of a monastery, of which St. Moclodius was the abbot,

and which, according to the "Annals of the Four Masters," was plundered in 830, and again in 981, by the fierce Northmen. It appears, from the same high authority, to have flourished for more than two centuries, and the names of its abbots, deans, and archdeacons are regularly preserved till the year 1161, after which no further mention of it is made. Among the most celebrated of the dignitaries connected with this establishment, was Elias, the principal of all the monks in Ireland in his day, who died at Cologne in the year 1042. It appears that a monastery for Friars of the Franciscan order was built on the site of the old abbey in 1462 by a member of the O'Neill family, which at the period of the Dissolution was granted to Edward White. In the year 1613, a charter of incorporation was conferred on the town by James I., with the right of returning two members to Parliament, which privilege it continued to exercise until the abolition of the franchise by the Act of Union. On an eminence about two miles from the town are the remains of an ancient fort, surrounded by a deep fosse, which, from its commanding position, must have been a place of considerable importance. Monaghan derives great benefit as a place of business from the Ulster Canal, which runs beside the town. The river Blackwater also runs near the town, and in a sanitary as well as in an ornamental point of view confers additional advantages upon it.

Ballibay, a town of plain and ordinary character, situated in the county of Monaghan, about eight miles from the principal or assize town, and fifty-four from Dublin, is rendered remarkable chiefly on account of its flax market, which is held on Saturday, where not unfrequently so large a sum as £2,000 is paid for this article of native produce. The corn markets are held on Tuesday and Friday, and are well supplied with grain, which is purchased by the proprietors of extensive mills in the neighbourhood, and when manufactured into meal, sent by railway to Dundalk and other places. The Protestant church, a handsome small edifice, with a neat pinnacled tower, stands on a fine sloping elevation south of the town. The Roman Catholic church, at this time a small and very plain house of worship, has recently been replaced by a beautiful church in the pure Gothic style. There is also a Presbyterian house of worship in the town. There are no manufactures carried on here, whether as regards linen or cotton, but employment was at this time afforded to a large number of young girls in the sewing of muslins. Fairs are held on the third Saturday in each month. The fine mansion called Leslie House, the residence of Mrs. Leslie, the owner of the property of which the town forms a part, is nicely situated on the border of a beautiful lake that stretches before the principal façade, about half a mile from the town. It is sheltered on the north by an elevated and extensive range, which is clothed and ornamented by rich plantations; while undulating and finely-wooded hills rise on the south and east; the whole constituting it a picturesque and very delightful

place. Another handsome lake is situated on the other side of the town.

The line of railway from Ballibay to Dundalk runs beside the handsome small town of Castle Blaney, which is a tolerably prosperous place. It is situated in the parish of Mucknoe, barony of Cremorne, and county of Monaghan, about eleven miles from Monaghan, and forty-nine from Dublin. It consists of three streets that branch from the market-place, which, like the Diamond in the town of Monaghan, is of triangular form, and in the centre of which, on an elevation, stands the market-house, a very neat and ornamental building, with a spacious assembly-room in the second story, and a light bell turret above the centre of the roof. The principal market is held on Wednesday, but there are others on Tuesday and Friday, for the sale of corn and butter; while fairs are held on the first Wednesday of every month. The Protestant church of this town is a handsome edifice, and the Catholic church a very neat structure. There are also places of worship here for Presbyterians and Methodists. The poor-house of the union is situated in the vicinity of the town; here, also, is a fever hospital. The large and fine mansion formerly the residence of Lord Blaney adjoins the town, and together with the extensive demesne and beautiful Lake of Mucknoe, which spreads over a considerable area comprising about 380 acres, has a rich and noble appearance. Mr. Hope some years since purchased this fine place. The ruins of an ancient castle are to be seen on the shore of Mucknoe Lake.

After passing a small bridge near the Inniskeen station, beneath which flows the river that divides Monaghan from Louth, the tourist will soon arrive at Castle Bellingham, so celebrated for the superiority of its ale. This handsome small town takes its name from a castle of the Bellingham family, which was burnt by the forces of James II., in their retreat before the army of King William, previously to the battle of the Boyne. It is favourably situated on the river Glyde, in the parish of Gernonstown, barony of Ardee, and county of Louth, six miles from Dundalk, and thirty-four miles from Dublin. Fairs are held here on Easter Tuesday and on the 10th of October. The Protestant church of this place is a remarkably neat modern edifice. This parish in the Roman Catholic divisions is united with that of Kilsaran, in which is situated the handsome Catholic church. In the parish of Kilsaran, a commandery of Knights Templars was founded by Matilda de Lacy in the twelfth century, which was granted in the reign of Edward II. to the Knights Hospitallers. Near the river, in the vicinity of Castle Bellingham, are still to be seen the remains of the ancient castle. Passing onward from this place, the tourist will soon arrive by the railway at Dundalk, and thence proceeding to Drogheda, is speedily conveyed to Dublin.

CHAPTER XVII.

COUNTY OF WEXFORD.

HAVING brought my observations in reference to the several counties included within the provinces, respectively, of Leinster, Connaught, and Ulster, with the exception of the county of Wexford, to a close, I shall now proceed with my notice of Munster, commencing, however, with Wexford, of which, though being my native county, I shall continue to speak in the same general terms to which I have adhered while endeavouring to describe the other counties. According to the highest and most approved authorities, the whole or the greatest portion of this county, in the time of Ptolemy, the geographer, was inhabited by the people called the Menapii, whose territory bordered on the river Slaney, on the bank of which stood their principal town, which is supposed to have occupied the site of the present town of Wexford. These people are considered to have derived their origin from the Menapii of Belgic Gaul, who were of the race of the Firbolgs, who, according to the Irish annalists, established themselves in Ireland at a very early period. This county is considerably detached from the rest of Ireland, having the sea on its eastern and southern sides, with the estuary of the Suir and the Ross river along the greatest part of its western border; while the remaining portions are confined within a lofty range of mountains, through which, till within a comparatively recent period, there were but few lines of communication. The mountains on the county of Wicklow side extend from Slievebuy, or the Yellow Mountain—a beautiful conical hill 1,385 feet in height, covered with verdure—to the valley through which flows the river Slaney at Newtownbarry, which divides this part of the range from the more extensive and lofty chain of Mount Leinster and Blackstairs. The most elevated point of Mount Leinster is 2,610 feet above the level of the sea, and that of Blackstairs 2,409 feet. With the exception of the bordering elevations just mentioned, there are no high or extensive mountain ranges in this county, but the surface is diversified with many single and detached hills of considerable height. Near the western bank of the Slaney, about three miles from the town of Wexford, the Mountain of Forth forms a remarkable feature, being about 690 feet above the level of the sea, and extending some four miles in a direction from north-east to south-west. On its north-

eastern extremity three detached and rugged blocks, which rise on this side of the ridge, are called the Three Rocks. Another hill of prepossessing appearance, commonly called Slieve Keilter, but according to the Ordnance Survey, Slieve Coiltia, is situated in the south-western part of the county, between three and four miles from Ross. It is about 890 feet in height, and, being covered with verdure to its summit, shelters and supports a vast number of hares, which are carefully preserved, and afford amusement to the sportsmen of the county, who frequently indulge in coursing matches along its sides. Carrickburne, a remarkably rugged and barren mountain, some ten miles from Ross, on the road to Wexford; and Camross, a lofty hill about midway between these towns; with the Hill of Bree, nearly four miles from Enniscorthy; Vinegar Hill, in the immediate vicinity of that town; and Carrickrua, which signifies the Red Hill, between the town of Ferns and the sea-shore in the north-east part of the county, may be ranked as the minor class of mountains. The only river of importance in the county is the Slaney, which takes its rise in the mountains of the county of Wicklow, and after passing through the town of Baltinglass in that county, and Tullow in the county of Carlow, enters the county of Wexford at Newtownbarry, and thence flowing in a south-easterly direction to Enniscorthy, pursues its course to Wexford. It is navigable for vessels of 100 tons burden to Bellevue, which is about halfway between Wexford and Enniscorthy. The principal tributaries to the Slaney are the Bann, which it receives at Scarawalsh Bridge, about three miles above Enniscorthy; the Boro, which falls into it some three miles below that town; the Urrin, which discharges itself into it at St. John's, still nearer to the town of Enniscorthy; the Clody, that forms a junction with it at Newtownbarry; and the Sow, which flows into the estuary formed by it at Castlebridge. In the north-eastern part of the county the Owenavoragh river empties itself into St. George's Channel, near Courtown Harbour; while in the southern extremity the Bannow river falls into the estuary of that name beneath Wellington Bridge, near the celebrated Clonmines.

There are no lakes in the county, with the exception of that called the Lough of the Lady's Island, in the barony of Forth; which is entitled to the tourist's notice more on account of the singularity of its formation and the interesting reminiscences connected with it in a religious point of view, than for its beauty or extent. The singularity of its formation consists in its having no natural outlet; and being the receptacle of several small streams, it becomes necessary every three or four years to cut an opening through the sandbank which separates it from the sea. On the island formed in this lake we have reason to believe a church was erected at a very early period, and dedicated to the Blessed Virgin; and hence the designation of the Lady's Island. We are informed that on the subdivision of the territories acquired in this county by the Earl of Pembroke, surnamed Strongbow, this place became the property of Rodolph, son of Milo

de Lamporte, ancestor of the Lamberts of this county, who built a strong castle on the peninsula in Lough Tay, or Lady's Island Lake, which, according to tradition, was the object of repeated attacks. History informs us that a convent for Friars of the Augustinian order was erected here about the year 1450. We are also informed that when Cromwell arrived in the Bay of Rosslare, in the year 1649, he sent a party of his soldiers to reduce the fortress at the Lady's Island, which consisted principally of a square tower. The castle was at once surrendered to this party, by whom the convent was plundered; and the brethren who refused to take up arms against their countrymen put to death. The ruin of the castle still remaining presents a strong and compact appearance, and greatly resembles the ancient castles at Selskar Abbey, in the town of Wexford. The inner court was entered beneath a massive arch, of lofty proportions, on the western side of the grand keep; while on the eastern side are still to be seen the remains of the strong boundary wall of the bawn, which, in all probability, contained the dwellings of the brethren of the monastery. South of the court and the castle are the remains of the church of the abbey, which at present consist of the western gable, with its double belfry, and some scanty portions of the side walls. On the northern extremity of the island, which is approached from the village by a broad causeway, stands the ruin of a strong barbacan tower, which, owing to some unaccountable cause, has been partially rent from its foundation, and leans forward in a south-westerly direction, so as to excite one's wonder how, in its present singular position, it has so long continued without having fallen. There is at present little more than half of it remaining, the other portion, in all probability, having fallen when the foundation was disturbed; standing as it does in an inclining position, it presents a very remarkable appearance.

In the village which adjoins the lake is situated the Roman Catholic church of the parish of St. Mary's, a handsome cruciform edifice of long standing, which is now (the summer of 1863) about to be replaced by a new church. Immediately adjoining the present church is the residence of the parish priest, the Rev. James Walsh, who was translated from the pastorship of New Ross to this parish on the decease of his elder brother, the Rev. Patrick Walsh, who for a period of fifty years was the beloved and revered pastor of the Lady's Island. This celebrated island was much resorted to in former years as a place of pilgrimage, and on the 15th of August and the 8th of September, numbers, even from distant parts, were wont to congregate here for pious purposes. The cemetery of this place, in which are the ruins of the ancient church, is still much used as a burial-ground. The islands, like the lakes, are necessarily few in number; that formerly called Slade Island being now connected with Bannow by a narrow sandy isthmus; while the two islands in the harbour of Wexford have been brought into connection with the main-land by

means of the recent reclamations therein under the Wexford Harbour Embankment Company.

The smallest of these islands, called Beg Erin, or Little Ireland, acquired an early distinction from being the residence of St. Ibar, who was the contemporary, and, as we are informed, the precursor, of St. Patrick. It has been stated, on the highest authority, that St. Ibar, St. Kieran, St. Ailbe, and St. Declan, were on their way to Ireland to prosecute their mission when the great Apostle was proceeding to Rome to be consecrated by his Holiness, St. Celestine. St. Ibar established a seminary on this island, where he instructed a large number of candidates for the priesthood, and having died at a very advanced age, was interred here. This island comprised about twenty acres, and, in latter ages, was remarkable only for its cemetery and the ruins of a small church, which stands within it.

From the natural position of the county of Wexford, and its proximity to England, it very early became the theatre of usurpation and strife, it being the place where the earliest of the English adventurers, or invaders, first effected a landing. These adventurers were induced, nay, invited, to turn their attention to this country by a native prince, Dermot MacMurrough, King of Leinster, who resided in his palace at Ferns, in this county, and who, by his unscrupulous, turbulent, and licentious conduct, incurred the displeasure of his own subjects and excited the hostility of a neighbouring prince. Among the many acts of gross injustice which were the results of his headstrong disposition and his unbridled passions, was that of carrying off Dervorgilla, the wife of Tiernan O'Rourke, Prince of Breffny. It has been stated, by way of palliation for his turpitude and her weakness, that an early attachment existed between him and his paramour, the "Irish Helen," and that she was forced into a marriage with O'Rourke by her father, Melachlin. A hostile feeling, it appears, had long existed between the Prince of Breffny and MacMurrough; but whether it was occasioned by jealousy on the part of the King of Leinster has not been clearly ascertained. There is one circumstance, however, connected with this frail and beautiful princess which would seem to corroborate the notion that she, to some extent, was an aggrieved person, which is, that her brother Melachlin was not only cognisant of her attachment to Dermot, but even assisted the lovers in their plans, and aided the elopement of Dervorgilla from an island in the county of Meath, to which she had been sent by her husband during his absence on a military expedition. On the return of O'Rourke, he appealed at once to the monarch, Tordelvach, who espoused his cause with such earnestness that he marched an army into Leinster the following year, and rescued Dervorgilla from MacMurrough, together with the property and valuable ornaments which she carried with her in her flight, and replaced her under the care of her relatives in Meath. She was subsequently placed in the Abbey of Mellifont, to which she had been but a short time previously a liberal donor; where she spent

the remainder of her life in works of penance, and died at a very advanced age. It is the generally-received opinion and the traditional belief, that the abduction of this lady was the immediate cause of MacMurrough's expulsion from his kingdom; and even many of our historians do not hesitate to give the weight of their authority to this supposition. According to Moore, however, we find that this disgraceful event took place in the year 1153; while the expulsion of Dermot, and his consequent flight to England, to solicit assistance from Henry II., did not take place till the year 1166, which was thirteen years after the injury inflicted by him on the outraged Prince of Breffny. The historian Moore is fully borne out in his account of the abduction of the wife of O'Rourke, and also of Dermot's visit to England, by the "Annals of the Four Masters." MacGeoghegan, on the other hand, adopts the view entertained by the historians who state that both of these events occurred in the reign of Roderic O'Connor. Some of the most extraordinary circumstances in connection with this ill-timed and unfortunate amour are the respective ages of MacMurrough and his paramour. In a note which may be seen in page 1,193 of the "Annals of the Four Masters," we find that Dervorgilla was born in the year 1108, and her abduction did not take place till the latter part of 1152; so that her age at the ill-starred period was forty-four, while that of her lover was nearly sixty-two. The unfortunate lady was allowed a long time to mourn and regret her weakness and folly, as she reached her eighty-fifth year before her death took place. The learned Dr. O'Connor, who was perfectly conversant with the most authentic annals and histories of Ireland, states that the expulsion of MacMurrough was not owing to the seduction of this lady.

In the general character and conduct of the King of Leinster, it has been observed there was a manifest contradiction, so much so, that it is difficult to reconcile actions so anomalous with a perfectly sound state of mind. At the same time that we find him treacherously seizing seventeen of the principal nobles of Leinster, some of whom he put to death, and ordered the eyes of the others to be plucked out; and when also, with a reckless daring almost unparalleled since the days of Paris and Helen, we find him tearing the wife of a brother prince from beneath the roof of her nearest relatives, we likewise find him one of the most munificent patrons of religion and the founder of many abbeys and churches in various parts of his dominions. In the emergency which was the result of such unrestricted licentiousness, the wayward King of Leinster found himself entirely destitute of friends, while a strong muster of forces was arrayed against him under the command of his most inveterate enemy, Tiernan O'Rourke, who without delay proceeded to invade his territory. Thus threatened and assailed, he retired in dismay to his castle at Ferns; but seeing no hope of being able to make a stand against his enemies, he adopted the desperate resolution of seeking for foreign aid, and having first

set fire to the town of Ferns, withdrew himself secretly and embarked for England. Of the success of the fugitive King of Leinster in his visit to that country it is unnecessary to speak at any great length, it being sufficient for my purpose to say that he found in the grasping ambition of Henry II. a powerful motive to induce that monarch to afford him the assistance he required for the recovery of his forfeited kingdom; in the event of which he agreed to pay homage and become the liegeman of the English king. He also found in Richard de Clare, Earl of Pembroke, who was surnamed Strongbow, a willing instrument to act in concert with him on the terms agreed upon between them; which were, that MacMurrough should bestow upon him the hand of his daughter Eva, and make over to him after his death the kingdom or principality of Leinster. In Robert Fitz-Stephen and his maternal or half-brother, Maurice Fitz-Gerald, he found brave and adventurous spirits, who, in the hope of enjoying the wealth and consequent aggrandisement which Dermot's proposal held out, readily consented to render all the assistance and co-operation in their power to advance his treacherous designs upon his native land. These brave Anglo-Norman brothers were the sons of the beautiful Nesta, the daughter of Rees Gruffydh, a powerful chieftain or lord of the principality of Wales. This lady, who was eminently endowed with rare personal gifts, had originally been the mistress of Henry I., by whom she had a son, who was also called Henry. The latter was father of Meyler and Robert Fitz-Henry, who arrived in Ireland with Richard de Clare, surnamed, as his father was before him, Strongbow. Nesta's first marriage was with Stephen, Constable of the Castle of Cardigan and Pembroke; by whom she had Robert Fitz-Stephen, one of the first of the English adventurers who landed in this country. After the death of the Constable she became the wife of Gerald, surnamed Fitz-Walter, and the mother of Maurice and William Fitz-Gerald. Maurice, who early joined his half-brother Fitz-Stephen in Ireland, took a prominent part in establishing the English supremacy in this country, and left a numerous issue, who acquired large possessions in the provinces of Leinster and Munster. The great family of Fitz-Gerald was descended from Otho, an Italian nobleman, who traced his origin from the Ducal House of Tuscany. The son of Otho, named Walter, having accompanied William the Conqueror to England, was appointed by him Constable of Windsor Castle; he also became possessed of estates and lordships in England. Gerald, the eldest son of Walter, being sent by the king on special business to the principality of Wales, where he built the Castle of Pembroke, conducted the affairs with which he was entrusted so much to the monarch's satisfaction, that he had considerable estates granted to him in that principality; and having settled there, he married, as before stated, the highly-favoured Nesta.

John, one of the descendants of Maurice Fitz-Gerald, was created Earl of Kildare in 1316 by King Edward II.; and Maurice, his

brother, was raised in the following reign to the dignity of the Earl of Desmond by Edward III. The houses of Kildare and Desmond suffered severely during the reign of Elizabeth, several of their large possessions being confiscated and bestowed upon English favourites. That of Kildare, however, not only escaped the fate of Desmond, but still continues to hold the highest rank in the Irish peerage, namely, the Dukedom of Leinster. William, the second son of Gerald Fitz-Walter, was father of Raymond Fitz-William, surnamed Le Gros, or the Fat, who had so large a share in reducing a great part of Ireland under the dominion of Henry II.

Raymond married Basilia de Clare, sister of Earl Strongbow. In an expedition which this gallant soldier led against Donald O'Brien, King of Limerick, it appears Dermod McCarthy, King of Cork, sent to request his aid against his son, Cormac O'Lehanagh, who rebelled against him. In accordance with his solicitation, Raymond marched against the ungrateful son of McCarthy, and caused him to be delivered up to his father, who ordered him to be beheaded. In return for this service, McCarthy bestowed upon him a large district in the county of Kerry, which at that time formed part of the kingdom of Cork. Raymond granted this territory to his eldest son Maurice, who became very powerful, and whose descendants took the name of Fitz-Maurice. Raymond had another son, named Hamon, or Heimond, surnamed, like his father, Le Gros. It is from him the family of Grace is descended, which name is a corruption of Gros. This family had been in high repute for centuries in the county of Kilkenny. We are informed that the brothers Fitz-Stephen and Maurice Fitz-Gerald, like the Earl of Pembroke—Strongbow—were so broken in their fortunes, and so beset with political difficulties, as to be ready and willing to embark in any enterprise, however desperate, that held forth the prospect of a speedy change. We therefore find that these Anglo-Norman adventurers entered upon the invasion of Ireland pretty much in the same spirit in which Cortes and Pizarro engaged in the invasion of South America; and it is but the truth to say that they fought and struggled with a degree of bravery and perseverance unsurpassed by the daring and adventurous Spaniards. Agreeably to the compact entered into by King Dermot and his allies, the first landing of the Anglo-Normans in Ireland took place in the month of May, 1169. The commander of this expedition was Robert Fitz-Stephen, who brought with him thirty knights, all, it is said, of his own immediate household; sixty men in coats of mail, and 300 of the most approved and skilful archers of South Wales. With this small party, which landed at Bag-an-bun, in the county of Wexford, came Hervey de Monte Marisco, uncle of the Earl of Pembroke, who, according to Moore, had joined the expedition rather as the emissary or precursor of his noble nephew than as a warrior. As a proof of the determination with which Fitz-Stephen entered on this enterprise, we are informed that when he landed his troops he set

fire to the two ships in which they were conveyed, stating to them at the same time, that they should succeed or perish in the attempt. On the following day, Maurice de Prendergast, a valiant gentleman of Wales, arrived at the head of ten knights and sixty archers. Dermot, to whom messengers were despatched with all speed, hastened with all the forces then at his command, which consisted of only 500 men; and being aware that in despatch lay his only chance of success, he merely delayed to renew the engagements previously entered into with the Anglo-Norman leaders, and then marched with their united forces to the town of Wexford.

On reaching the suburbs of that town, they were met by about 2,000 of the inhabitants, who, on being informed of their coming, marched forth to meet them. But the order and regularity with which the assailants prepared for the encounter caused the undisciplined mass to hesitate in their onward movement, and after a few moments deliberation, they set fire to the suburbs, and retired hastily into the town. When, however, Fitz-Stephen, taking advantage of the circumstance, led on his men to scale the walls, so brave and obstinate was the resistance he met with, that he was compelled to withdraw his troops, and for that day content himself with burning all the ships that were then lying at anchor along the strand before the town.

On the next morning the inhabitants, being struck with the preparations which were made by the enemy to renew the attack, entered into consultation with each other as to the expediency of making any further resistance, and the result was, that they came to a resolution to capitulate; and the terms, as we are informed, were obtained through the mediation of two bishops. These terms were, that, on condition of the town being surrendered, and hostages given for the fealty of the inhabitants in future, they were to be pardoned their first rebellion, and again received into the royal favour; and thus ended, without bloodshed, the first act of the great national drama.

On obtaining the possession of Wexford, Dermot fulfilled his engagements with the distinguished Anglo-Norman brothers, by investing Fitz-Stephen and Maurice Fitz-Gerald, the latter of whom had not then arrived, but was daily expected, with the lordship of the town and its domain. At the same time he gave to Hervey de Monte-Marisco, or, as the historian Moore calls him, Hervey of Mount Maurice, two cantreds lying on the sea-side between Wexford and Waterford. This nobleman was married to Nesta, daughter of Maurice Fitz-Gerald, and cousin to Raymond le Gros. The Barrys, who are said to derive their name from Barry Island in Wales, owe their origin in this country to William de Barry, who married Angareth, daughter of the celebrated and beautiful Nesta, and sister of Robert Fitz-Stephen, by whom she had four sons—namely, Robert, Philip, Walter, and Gerald. The eldest brother, Robert Barry, who accompanied Fitz-Stephen to Ireland, was wounded at the siege of Wexford, and afterwards killed at Lismore. Philip crossed over to Ireland some

time after, to assist his uncle, Fitz-Stephen, and Raymond le Gros, to keep their possessions in Cork against the attacks of the ancient proprietors, the McCarthys; Fitz-Stephen bestowed upon him the lands of Olethan, Muskerry, and Kilhide. These grants were confirmed to William, son of Philip, by King John. David Barry, the head of this family, having previously been raised to the dignities of Baron Ibaunè and Viscount Buttevant, was created Earl of Barrymore in 1627, by Charles I. The youngest brother, Gerald, surnamed Cambrensis, is he of whom frequent mention is made in Irish history, as a writer by no means favourable to this country. Soon after this time Maurice Fitz-Gerald arrived in the port of Wexford, attended by ten knights, thirty horsemen, and about a hundred archers. Fitz-Stephen gave him a cordial welcome, and confided to him the joint command with himself of an expedition he was about to lead against Dublin.

It is not a little extraordinary that so many of the early English adventurers should have been the immediate descendants of one lady; but while this circumstance is calculated to excite our surprise, it also, to some extent, serves to account for their equally extraordinary success, as their close relationship may have stimulated them to adhere faithfully to each other, while sedulously pursuing the great object of their ambition—namely, self-interest and aggrandisement.

What a lesson may be deduced from their successful career; how clearly it establishes the important fact, that a few brave men banded together for the attainment of a great object may succeed even against a host of difficulties and the most fearful odds. How forcibly, also, does it demonstrate the lamentable consequences which result from the want of unanimity, by showing that even a nation, when torn by strife and division, is liable to become the prey of a mere handful of needy, but still hardy, persevering, and adventurous spirits.

The ancient town of Wexford, the capital of the county, is situated on the lower part of a gentle elevation, by which it is bounded on the west, and by which it is sheltered from the generally prevailing winds. It is bounded on the east by the Slaney, which, after passing the point called Ferrybank, and beneath the bridge—a wooden structure of nearly seventy years' standing, now about to be removed, a new one being erected about half a mile higher up the river—spreads considerably, and forms the capacious but comparatively shallow harbour. There are few places in Ireland—indeed, with the exception of Queenstown, I am not acquainted with any—where the harbour appears to greater advantage than does that of Wexford. Viewed from the centre of the old bridge at high tide, and looking in a south-easterly direction, a sheet of water, covering an area of about a dozen square miles, presents itself, and in fine weather appears as clear and transparent as if it were a sheet of glass. This extensive estuary is bounded on the south and east by a low line of sandbanks, in the centre of which is

the narrow entrance, which is barred by continuously accumulating and shifting sands, that render the passage so shallow as to preclude the egress and ingress of vessels of moderate tonnage, except at the high-water time of tide. At low tide a considerable portion of the broad expanse is uncovered with water, and presents on both sides of the ordinary tide-way, or channel, a large breadth of slimy mud-banks, the surfaces of which are covered with sea-weed. From this peculiarity it is supposed that Wexford derived its ancient name of Weisford, from the term Waesford or Washford, which is said to signify a bay overflowed by the tide, but left nearly dry at low water.

We find that Wexford was, at an early period of its history, called Loughgarm, in attestation of which we find the historian Mac-Geoghegan applying this designation to the district of Wexford, when speaking of the foundation of an abbey by St. Mun, at Teagh-Mun, "in the territory of Loughgarm," at present Wexford. According to Keating, the historian, the name should be written Loughgarman, having, as he states, derived this appellation from a colony of early settlers from Germany.

Looking northward from the bridge, a beautiful prospect can be obtained, in which is included the widest portion of the majestic Slaney, that, gradually spreading at the distance of about two miles from the point where it unites itself with the harbour, washes the strand of the demesnes of Saunderscourt and Artramont, which demesnes display their richly-planted lawns to the beholder; while, in the background, the lofty summits of Blackstairs and Mount Leinster break upon the view, and give a sublimity and completeness to the extended landscape. Not unfrequently in the midsummer season, about the period of the evening, when the waning day gradually fades into what can scarcely be called night, the contemplative lover of beautiful nature gazes with unmingled admiration and delight upon the placid river, and marks upon its unruffled surface, undisturbed by the slightest ripple, the reflection of the rich halo which the setting sun sometimes leaves upon that portion of the western sky from which it had but lately taken its departure. In the mild radiance of the deep orange tint, which at such a moment diffuses itself over the panoramic scene, the shipping along the quays, and the various small craft, consisting for the most part of pleasure yachts, moored below the bridge, present a peculiarly interesting, I might almost say a fairy-like, appearance; while the deepening shadows of the thick, and now sombre, plantations that skirt the shores of Saunderscourt and Artramont, already mentioned, falling on the serene waters, shed a soul-touching gloom over that portion of the lake-like surface. The old castles of Selskar Abbey, too, which are situated in the vicinity of the river—their hoary summits also tinged with the lingering ruddy light—give a solemnity to the picture, which, deriving as it does its chief beauties from the all-bounteous hand of nature, a Claude Lorraine, or a Salvator Rosa, might delight to sketch. The town, including the suburbs, may be

said to extend about a mile and a quarter from north to south, and presents the appearance of a straggling place, its breadth bearing no just proportion to its length. That portion of it, however, which lies within the range of the old town wall—commencing at the river Slaney, a few perches north of the West Gate, and extending in an irregular line to the strand of the harbour at Paul Quay, at a short distance east of the Castle Gate, near the military barracks—does not exceed half a mile in length. This ancient wall, many portions of which are still standing, is supposed to have been erected by the Danes, who, soon after their arrival in this country, established themselves in the various seaport towns, which they surrounded with walls, and fortified with towers, to protect them against the attacks of the natives. This defensive wall was strengthened on the inside by a rampart 22 feet in width, and protected by a fosse of similar breadth on the outside; while strong castles and towers were erected at several points, especially in the vicinity of the gates, of which there were about half a dozen. As a matter of course, when the English obtained the possession of the town, they improved its defences, and, in all probability, erected the principal fort or castle, which stood upon the site now occupied by the military barracks; and also those which, in tolerable preservation, are still to be seen at the West Gate, adjoining Selskar Abbey. But whatever may have been the improvements effected by the Anglo-Normans as regarded the defences of the town, posterity is not indebted to them as far as relates to the widening of its streets, as in this respect it is very little better than it was when Henry II. visited it in 1172, and conferred upon his favourite, Hugh de Lacy, the royal domain of the monarch of Ireland at Meath, or, at least, a great portion of it, amounting, as we are told, to 800,000 acres.

Wexford, thus retaining up to the present day so many of its ancient characteristics, may be said to consist of four leading thoroughfares, of which the quay, constructed within the last fifty years, may be considered one, and extends nearly a mile in length from north to south, including William Street, which has been opened from the south end of it to the rock of Maudlintown. The main street runs on a line parallel with the quay, and, extending as it does beyond it on both extremities, from Slaney Street on the north to the churchyard of Maudlintown on the south, is over a mile in length. Back Street is about the same distance from the main street as the latter is from the quay, and runs parallel with it, under various denominations, from Slaney Street to Bride Street, and within the town wall. Another line beyond the town wall runs parallel with Back Street, but is of considerably greater length, extending from the Windmills Hill, in the north-western suburbs, to Michael's Street, at the churchyard of St. Michael's of Feagh, or the Faythe. In this line are included John Street, School Street, the Old Pound, Carrigeen Street, and Mill Road. About half a dozen streets—some of which may be called lanes—opening from the quay, intersect the main street and Back

Street, and lead to the last-mentioned suburban line. From the lowness of its situation, and the narrow and confined character of the streets, Wexford does not appear to advantage in the eyes of a stranger. When viewed from the Ferrybank side of the river, however, and especially from that portion of the height immediately adjoining the grounds of Ely House, the very handsome seat of Major Doran, it presents a prepossessing appearance, and shows a line of good substantial houses; while in the suburbs may be seen several neat villas, including Carcur House, Riversfield House, Strandfield House, Rockfield House, Richmond House, the Rectory, and Wellington Cottage. More immediately within the town can be seen the Diocesan School, Spring Hill, the jail, Fortview, the castles of Selskar Abbey, with the church of St. Iberius, the Franciscan church and convent, the convent of the Nuns of the Presentation order, the theatre, the Bank of Ireland, the Chamber of Commerce, the steam mill erected some years since by Richard Devereux, Esq., the military barracks, the shipbuilding yard, the large school lately erected in the Faythe, and many handsome private houses. Above the whole of these, in stately grandeur, rise the new and beautiful Roman Catholic churches, their splendid towers and elegant spires, from their great elevation, forming beacons for the joyous mariner, who recognises in them the unerring and unmistakable symbols of safety, of mercy, and of hope. In the background appear the union workhouse, Elmville, Belvidere, Julia Mount, Air Hill, Summer Hill, Cromwell's Fort, Mulgannon House, and Rocklands.

One of the finest and most extensive prospects that can be obtained of the harbour and its bays is that which presents itself to the visitor as he stands before the entrance to the vestibule of St. Peter's College, which noble institution is situated about the centre of the acclivity that rises west of the town. From this commanding and enviable position the whole range from Blackwater Head, which forms the extremity of the North Bay, to the Tuskar Lighthouse, that appears off the shore beyond Greenore Point, which forms the extreme limit of the South Bay, falls at once under observation. There is also a fine back view from this elevation, several of the objects already mentioned being within its range, together with a considerable tract of country north of the Slaney, extending to Carrickrua Hill. The college itself is a very interesting feature, being a fine quadrangular building of large and regular proportions; while the additions, which were made at a comparatively recent period, under the immediate supervision of the late lamented Very Rev. Dr. Sinnot, for many years president of the institution, are at once extensive and beautiful, and comprise the main features of this interesting and useful pile. These additions consist of a long suite of apartments, which extend south of the original building, and are graced in the centre by a light and lofty tower, ornamented on each angle by an octangular minaret. A very beautiful and richly-wrought window, in the perpendicular Gothic style, stands above

the capacious arched gateway of the tower; while there are four windows in each story of the flanking range, which extends north and south of the tower, the entire summit being decorated with embattled ornaments. This portion of the building is flanked on the south by an elegant chapel, in the pointed Gothic style of architecture, supported externally by graduating buttresses, which end in diminishing water tables, a few feet below the eave-course, and between which appear the handsome coupled lancet windows, five on each side. A large and uncommonly fine circular oriel window, 24 feet in diameter, and consisting of thirty-seven separate lights, occupies the eastern gable of the church: being furnished with beautiful stained glass, embellished with appropriate designs, it displays its handsome geometrical divisions to the best possible advantage. A neat and characteristic double belfry surmounts the western gable, from which, as well as from the apex of the eastern gable, springs an appropriate ornamental cross. Considerable improvements have taken place here under the direction of the present bishop, the Right Rev. Dr. Furlong; including additions, whereby this fine establishment has been rendered capable of affording increased accommodation to the gradually increasing number of boarders. Among these may be mentioned an addition to the dormitory, which occupies the north side of the quadrangle in the rear of the college; while along the east and south sides extend new and spacious piazzas, which may not improperly be said to constitute the cloisters, having a series of nice Gothic arches fronting the central area. A new entrance gate, with panelled Tuscan pillars of fine granite, has also been recently erected immediately adjoining the handsome lodge which some years since was built within the demesne. Taken as a whole, St. Peter's is a very handsome pile, and with its rich plantations, its airy, wholesome, and commanding situation, presents a particularly striking appearance. The convent of the Sisters of Mercy is situated at a short distance west of St. Peter's College, and is a fine house of three stories in height. It is flanked on the north by a very pretty school-house, which is at present in connection with the National Board of Education, and on the south by a new and handsome chapel, both of uniform character, and in the Gothic style, each connected by a corridor with the parent building.

Wexford, from its remote situation, lying as it does in the southern extremity of the island, derives but little advantage from its intercourse with other parts of Ireland. Its communication with England, however, by means of its navigation, amply compensates for its non-intercourse with portions of its own country, and affords a profitable source of traffic to its native merchants. The vessels which some years since belonged to the port, owing to the difficulty of entering the harbour, were, generally speaking, of light burden; but latterly, although the character of the harbour has not improved, many of comparatively large size have been built or purchased, and a spirited trade is carried on with America, the Mediterranean, and the Black

Sea. Vessels of large size are lightened in the bay, and are towed in and out of the harbour by a small but powerful steam-tug, purchased by the enterprising Richard Devereux, Esq., to facilitate the ingress and egress of his ships; which boat renders similar accommodation to the other vessels entering and leaving the port, should their owners hire her for such purpose. A large and powerful steamer called the *Troubadour*, a very superior vessel, sails once a week for Liverpool; while another fine fleet boat, called the *Fire Fly*, plies weekly between this port and Bristol. These vessels take as freight cattle, pigs, sheep, and poultry. The last-named description of export has long been very plentiful in the Wexford market, and a brisk trade is carried on in this branch of traffic with the above-named English ports. A very neat and fast-sailing steam-boat has for the last two or three years been plying between Wexford and Dublin, and the fare being moderate, large numbers of persons, especially in the summer season, avail themselves of this mode of visiting the metropolis. There are several boats constantly engaged in the fishing trade, and consequently oysters and every variety of fish can be had here on reasonable terms. The public buildings in Wexford, with the exception of its churches, are few in number as well as plain in character. The most important is the Court House, which was erected about fifty-six years ago, and which is at present undergoing extensive alteration and enlargement, as it was considered by no means suited to the requirements of the public business. The situation is eligible, as it shows its façade, consisting of a centre and two projecting wings, to the quay, which extends in front of the old bridge. Before the entrance in the deeply-receding front, a handsome colonnade is formed by four columns of the Doric order. The town-hall and market-house, situated in what was formerly the corn market, an area of triangular shape, is a plain Doric building of two stories in height. The upper story of this building is used as assembly-rooms, and for meetings of the corporation; while the basement story is appropriated to marketable purposes, and is entered by arched doorways, five in number, the jambs and arches of which are ornamented with bold granite edgings. The windows, one of which stands above each doorway, correspond in style and character with the entrances, being like them, arched and bordered with granite. This structure occupies the base of the angle, in the centre of which is a public fountain; while the apex terminates in a narrow passage that leads to the Bull Ring, which is considered the centre of the principal part of the town. This area, or small square, situated east of the main street, has been rendered remarkable in history as being the place where the ferocious soldiers of the inexorable Cromwell massacred 300 females, many of them ladies of distinction; who, congregating at the foot of the Market Cross, which stood in the centre of the quadrangle, vainly implored mercy from their inhuman and sanguinary murderers. This place derives its name from having been in former days the arena where the popular

sport of bull-baiting was usually carried on, and where, as we have reason to believe, this now exploded pastime was wont to be indulged so late as within the last ninety or hundred years. Although the advancing civilisation of our times has entirely abolished so barbarous a sport, it is by no means improbable that many of our most respected ancestors, like the grandees of Spain of the present day, have by their presence not only sanctioned but even encouraged an amusement which, up to a comparatively recent period, was exceedingly popular with the uneducated classes. The most important, as well as the most ornamental, of our modern secular buildings is the Bank of Ireland, a fine square house of ample proportions, showing three stories above the basement. It is situated at the northern extremity of the Crescent Quay, to which it displays its principal or south front, which, like the eastern front that faces the Custom House Quay, is constructed of rich granite, brought from the neighbourhood of Dalkey, near Dublin. In the centre of the Crescent, and at a short distance from the Bank of Ireland, is situated the Chamber of Commerce, a handsome building of two stories. It is entered by a spacious door in its principal or eastern front, which is constructed of fine Scotch stone. This building was erected subsequently to the Bank of Ireland and appears, from the similarity of its style, to have been modelled from it.

The Provincial Bank, a fine large house, is situated at Commercial Quay; it is four stories in height, and faces the broad estuary of the harbour. The National Bank, also a large house of four stories in height, with an ornamental front, is finely situated in the centre of the main street, immediately in front of Anne Street, which leads to the Custom House Quay, and is one of the most spacious and regular streets in the town. Immediately adjoining this establishment is the new and commodious building recently erected as a mechanics' institute, which shows a rich and ornamental front, that ranges in elevation on a line with the bank and with the new and handsome house which adjoins it on the north side. This very interesting and valuable institution owes its existence to the munificent bounty of the late revered and lamented Sir Francis Le Hunte, the philanthropic president and founder of the society; who, besides the liberal donation of £100 presented by him towards the erection of the building a short time before his death, left by his will an additional sum of £500, together with his library, philosophical instruments, and a large quantity of household furniture, worth at least another £500. From this munificent bequest the trustees were enabled to allocate a sum sufficient for the completion of the new building, which now stands as a fitting monument to him whose ambition it was to enlighten, and thereby ameliorate, the condition of the mechanic or working man. The great object of the benevolent donor was to sink a sum of money, the interest of which would be sufficient to pay the rent of the building, and thereby to give a permanent security to the institution. This most desirable investment the trustees under his will are in a position to make. Another literary

institution is also being built in the town, and is now (in the autumn of 1862) in a forward state. It is intended as a hall for the members of the Christian Young Men's Society recently established here, and occupies a favourable site, as far as regards its central position, immediately adjoining White's Hotel. The front, which is 54 feet in length and 31 in height to the wall plate, is constructed of fine English brick, and shows a slightly projecting centre, which is entered in the middle by a handsome door, with side columns of the Doric order supporting an entablature and pediment. On each side of the door is a fine large window, with three of the same character in the upper story of the projection, and one of the same style and dimensions in each story of the lateral extensions. This building, when finished, will be an ornament to this part of the town, and must be considered a great improvement, as it has been thrown 5 feet back from the line of the narrow street, and thus holds forth an inducement to other proprietors or owners of houses to follow the example. A Catholic Young Men's Society, on the principle laid down by the Very Reverend Dr. O'Brien, parish priest of Kilfinane, in the diocese of Limerick, has also been established in Wexford. So that, from the advantages to be derived in a literary point of view from these several sources, the rising youth of the town will not be at a loss for profitable occupation during their leisure hours. While speaking of the improvements which within the last twenty years or so have been made in the town and neighbourhood of Wexford, those who take an interest in such may with some satisfaction point to that portion of the suburbs which forms the approach from Enniscorthy.

Advancing by this route, the stranger becomes struck with the neat residences of Joseph Meadows, John Barrington, and James Barry Farrell, Esqrs., on the one hand, and the new and beautiful cottages built by Mr. Thomas Willis, on the other; while Elmville, the seat of Richard Allen, Esq., and Rockfield House and demesne, the nice residence of R. W. Ryan, Esq., in the same vicinity, command attention. Adjoining the lands of Rockfield, too, the nice terrace houses built by the late Mr. Nicholas Sinnott cannot be overlooked; while the union workhouse, based on an acclivity above the flowing stream, is a remarkably striking and agreeable feature. The situation of this institution is as healthy as it is conspicuous, and in care and attention bestowed upon the inmates it is second to no establishment of the kind in Ireland. Passing onward by Richmond House, a large quadrangular building, and the neat adjoining villas, including the Rectory, the traveller, whether native or stranger, will pause in astonishment and delight, to view the rich and ornamental grounds of Wellington Cottage, the unique residence of Joseph Harvey, Esq. The new and beautiful gate-lodge, which is in the enriched Tudor style, excites in an especial manner the admiration of the visitor; while the conservatory and green-house are alike creditable to their projector. The centre of the conservatory is graced by a splendid

octagon, whose conical crystalline summit, as it gleams in the sheen of the meridian sun, diffuses a rich lustre upon the surrounding objects, and conveys the requisite genial warmth to the rare and tender plants which are nurtured in the interior. The finely-formed flower-beds and intersecting walks that grace and adorn the well-designed parterre which extends in front of the conservatory, from the curving gateway, with its elegant railing, to the margin of the Slaney, whose gentle wavelets wash its sloping border, call up feelings of the most pleasing and agreeable nature. Opposite this charming cottage is the Diocesan School, kept by William Barrington, Esq., where a large number of boarders and day scholars receive a liberal education.

The nice garden and the extensive playground of this establishment occupy the ample space formerly called the Green Walks, which some sixty years since constituted a public promenade for the inhabitants of the town. In this vicinity is also situated the County Infirmary, where medicine is dispensed to out-door patients, and the most prompt attention and skilful treatment bestowed upon those whose cases, arising from accident or infirmity, bring them within its walls, and under the care of the able and humane Dr. Boxwell. Spring Hill, the handsome seat of Captain Huson, is likewise situated in this neighbourhood, and from the extent of the nicely-planted grounds attached to the house, as well as from its proximity to the town, must be considered an enviable residence. The jail, which is situated in this part of the western suburbs, and in a fine open locality, is of considerable extent, and enclosed by a high boundary wall, which is entered in the north side, which faces the Spawell Road, by a large and strong door, which is formed within a massive arch, whose projecting and very deep mouldings arrest the particular attention of the visitor. The whole contour of this entrance, with its castellated and formidable adjuncts, conveys to the mind a lively impression of its strength and security. The board of superintendence is composed of some of the most respectable gentlemen in the neighbourhood, and the institution conducted and governed in the most satisfactory manner. Crime of an aggravated character is of very rare occurrence in the county, and consequently there has not been a public execution here for a great number of years. There are several very respectable private houses in this quarter of the town. Wexford may be said to have sustained itself very well, comparatively speaking, during the years of distress through which the country has lately passed; and trying though the ordeal was, it affords me the greatest satisfaction to say, that none of its merchants, traders, or men of business sank beneath the pressure.

As a further proof of that self-sustaining power which has been superinduced by the close industry and thrifty habits of the people of the town and neighbourhood, we can point with laudable pride to the two beautiful temples for Roman Catholic worship which have been erected here within the last ten years. These splendid buildings,

which are called Father Roche's Churches, were commenced in the month of June, 1851, which may be said to have been the period when the country was beginning to emerge out of the depth of exhaustion into which it had been plunged, and were first opened for divine worship in the month of April 1858, their rise and progress, like twin sisters, being perfectly simultaneous. Great exertions were necessarily made by the pious and indefatigable parish priest, the very Rev. James Roche; who had scarcely assumed the direction and pastoral government of the parish, to which he was translated from that of Ferns, when he was called upon to carry out the arrangements previously made by the late lamented bishop of the diocese, the Right Rev. Dr. Murphy, for the commencement of the churches. Up to the present time (the autumn of 1862), the amount expended upon them exceeds £20,000, about one-half of which was subscribed by the parishioners, and the remainder collected from persons in various parts of the world, chiefly Irishmen connected with the county of Wexford; whose prompt and generous contributions towards the completion of these temples of religion prove the sincerity of their faith and their love of fatherland. Indeed, it may with truth be asserted, that no churches erected at any period in this country, or perhaps in any part of Christendom, ever received such widespread and universal manifestations of sympathy as did Father Roche's Churches, in the way of substantial pecuniary subscriptions and donations. Much, however, still remains to be accomplished for the enclosure and embellishment of the surrounding areas, and other important matters; but all will doubtless follow in good time. These fine churches, so imposing in their stateliness, and so ornamental to the town, are of the same dimensions and of similar style of architecture, being that of the pure Gothic, familiarly known as Pugin's style. They were designed by the late Mr. Richard Pierce, who for many years was engaged in carrying out the details of the cathedrals and churches planned by the last-named celebrated architect at Killarney and elsewhere. They consist of a nave and side aisles, with the tower at the western end of the nave, and a handsome north and south porch, which lead into their respective aisles. The sacristy adjoins the eastern extremity of the north aisle. The length of each church is 130 feet and the breadth 60 feet, in the clear, exclusive of the porches and the towers. The tower is 16 feet by 16 in the clear, and the walls 5 feet thick; the dimensions of the porches being 10 feet by 10. The tower, which is 105 feet in height, and divided into four stages, is supported and decorated with double buttresses on each angle, which, diminishing at certain distances, are coped with distinct weatherings. The plinths, the weathering base mouldings, which consist of three members, and the quoins, are all of cut granite; and in their contrast with the reddish or purple stone that composes the main parts of the building present a rich and warm appearance; while the light and graceful octagonal spire, which, from the basement of the church to the emblem of sal-

vation, the crowning and highly-enriched cross, is 222 feet in height, is a truly prepossessing as well as a conspicuous feature. An elegant figure of the cock, the emblem of vigilance, finely gilt, surmounts the Christian symbol. The bold, striking, and characteristic doorway, with its deeply recessed and noble arch, is in the centre of the western face of the tower; and, with its four times repeated and cleanly cut mouldings, presents an appearance of grandeur and simplicity. The arches, within which are the doors of the porches, in everything but size correspond with that of the tower, and are, therefore, fine specimens of the dignified Gothic style. Above the tower entrance appears the fine west window, of ample proportions and five lights, the noble arch being enriched with varied tracery. In the western end of each aisle is a window of two lights, with a quatrefoil ornament in the head of the arch. The side windows of the aisles are also of two lights, with trefoil ornaments; and those of the clerestory, fourteen on each side, of similar character, but not quite so large. The great east or chancel window, which is in the style of the beautiful east window of Holy-cross Abbey, in the county of Tipperary, occupies nearly the whole of the space between the supporting buttresses of the nave gable, being 36 feet in height and 18 in breadth. This magnificent window is of seven lights, and elegant head tracery. Immediately above the spring of the arch, on each side, appears a large quatrefoil light, while the head, or soffit, is occupied by a rosette or foiled circle containing three separate trefoils. The complications of the beautiful tracery connected with these several figures produce subordinate lights of various shapes and sizes, which with the figures themselves amount to twenty-five in number. The windows of the eastern ends of the aisles are of three lights, with fine head tracery; and those of the sacristy of two lights, with trefoil heads. The whole of the windows are decorated with label-mouldings; and the apex of the nave, porches, and sacristy, crowned with highly enriched characteristic crosses. In the face of each of the massive buttresses which flank the grand or tower entrance is a beautiful niche intended for the reception of a saintly statue, the enriched architrave mouldings of which end in light pinnacles, which, like the terminating finial of its elegant canopy, are decorated with elaborately-wrought crocketings. An inlaid square panel, which exhibits in the centre of its ornamental face an elegant Greek cross, appears above the point of the crowning head-moulding of the arched entrance. A circular niche intended for the reception of a clock, and also deeply moulded, appears between the bold and striking arched heads of the two windows which appear in the western side of the upper or belfry story of the tower, in which has been placed a powerful and sweet-toned bell of 28 cwt. In each of the other three sides of this story appear similar windows with exceedingly rich arched mouldings. I have not seen in any of the cities or towns which I have visited, with the exception of Bath, a tower and spire similar to those attached to these churches. In that

city, however, attached to the church of St. Matthew, at Widcombe, which was erected about fifteen years ago, are a tower and spire alike in every respect to those that grace the Wexford churches, which, in fact, may be considered facsimiles of their English prototypes.

Having thus briefly endeavoured to describe the exterior of these beautiful churches, I shall now venture to notice a few of their most prominent internal features. The nave, which is 26 feet in the clear, is divided from the aisles by a series of elegant pointed arches with rib mouldings, seven on each side, which spring from light and beautiful circular columns, based on massive square pedestals. The octagon capitals of the columns, with their astrigals and neck decorations, present a fine appearance. The arrises which support the adjoining arches are formed by semi-octagon columns, with corresponding capitals and minor decorations. The breadth of the aisles is 14 feet 6 inches, and the pedestals of the columns are 5 feet square. The decoration and embellishment of the interior have been carried out by the celebrated Birmingham artisans, under the immediate direction of Mr. Early, of the firm of Hardman and Company, whose masterly efforts are so strikingly displayed in the ornamentation of many of the modern churches of this country. The mediæval decorations of the grand altars are characteristically rich and beautiful, as are those of the ribs and margins of the lofty arcade arches, and the borderings of the splendid chancel windows. The panelled ceilings of the highly-pitched roofs, which rise from the wall-plate of the clerestory, present a rich and chaste appearance, those parts which extend over the sanctuaries being in azure, partially adorned with gold. The nave ceilings are more subdued, the colour of the panels being of a cream-like hue, with neat borders and handsome centres. The ceilings of the aisles are of a deep cerulean, fretted with stars. Among the most striking and attractive objects which present themselves in these churches are the beautiful stained-glass windows and elegant altars of the Lady Chapels. The glass which furnishes the grand east or chancel window of the Church of the Immaculate Conception, at Rowe Street, is the gift of James Behan, Esq., and his sister Anne, both natives of Wexford, who for several years past have been residents of America. In the central compartment is a representation of Our Lord's Crucifixion; the Holy Ghost, in the shape of the dove, descending above his head. In one of the side compartments appears his blessed and disconsolate mother, and in the opposite compartment his beloved disciple, St. John. In the three divisions of the several compartments are various saintly and angelic figures. The window of the Lady Chapel of this church was presented by Father Roche, and contains in the central compartment a figure of the holy and youthful Virgin trampling on the neck of the prostrate and discomfited demon, the tempter and seducer of our poor mother Eve, through whom sin and its dread concomitant, death, first came into the world. Above the head of the mild and conquering Virgin appears the Holy Spirit descending

upon her in the form of the dove. In one of the side compartments is a representation of the father of the Immaculate Virgin, and in the other a figure of her mother. The eastern window of the north aisle, which is designated the Elizabeth Window, contains a fine representation of St. Elizabeth and the Blessed Virgin, as described in the visitation of the Holy Virgin to her cousin Elizabeth, the mother of St. John the Baptist. The side window of the south aisle, which also lights the Lady Chapel, is of beautiful stained glass, on which appears two saintly female figures, and was—together with the adjoining window, a fine specimen of the same rich material, upon which appears a representation of the great St. Laurence O'Toole—presented by John Hyacinth Talbot, Esq., D.L. The latter he intended as a memorial of his friend, the late gallant Colonel O'Toole, a brave Irishman, and a native of the county of Wexford. In this church the entire of the first arch on each side of the sanctuary is filled up with elegant screen-work, whereby the side chapels are divided from it. These beautiful screens, which are of highly ornamental character, are modelled from the grand specimens of the same style that are to be seen at the renowned York Minster. The lower part of each, to the capital of the arris, and the first column, consists of three splendid arches, which are formed between the columns of the bay and two elegant columns of Armagh marble, 6½ inches in diameter, that rise in the centre. These beautiful slender columns are based on well-proportioned pedestals of Caen stone, of octagon form, with finely-rounded tops, and are surmounted by capitals of the richest and most elaborate workmanship, upon which the tendrils and leaves of the vine, and the clustering grapes, are developed and displayed with surprising truthfulness and accuracy. Above the finely-pointed head of each of these arches appears a quatrefoil of great richness and beauty; while in the spandrels above these figures are two elegantly-wrought cinquefoils, and in the soffit of the great arch is a beautiful trefoil. The cusps of each of these several figures exhibit clusters of the vine, in which are combined fruit and foliage. The screens of the corresponding arches in the Church of the Assumption at Bride Street are different in their character, their summits ranging on a line with the capitals of the side columns. Each of these consists of a series of elegant open arches, six in number, formed between finely-veined columns of Armagh marble, 3 inches in diameter. These light and delicate columns are based on appropriate pedestals of Caen stone, which stand upon a handsome dwarf range, and are surmounted by splendid foliated capitals, from which spring the chaste and unique arches. Above the arches appear an equal number of trefoil ornaments, the cusped points of which display luxuriant clusters of the leaves and fruit of the vine; the whole being surmounted by an uncommonly rich and elaborately-wrought cornice, which rests upon the astrigals beneath the capitals, from which springs the lofty crowning arch. The foliated decorations of the spandrels between the mitred heads of the trefoils, and of those

which appear on the sides of the cornice, are of the most perfect and exquisite chiseling.

The grand chancel window of this church can bear a comparison with its ornate and beautiful precursor, the magnificent Behan Window in the Rowe-street temple. The central compartment of this splendid window contains a fine representation of our Lord's Ascension, his Blessed Mother kneeling in the lower portion of it; while in the upper parts of the other six lights are seen groups of angels, and in the subordinate divisions several apostolic figures. The window of the Lady Chapel of this church, also presented by the Very Reverend pastor, the good Father Roche, is very beautiful, and shows in the central compartment an admirably conceived representation of the glorified Virgin, with angelic figures in each of the side divisions. The side window of this aisle, which also lights the Lady Chapel, is of beautiful stained glass, presented by a pious and opulent lady; one side being adorned by a figure of St. Patrick, and the other with one of St. Bridget. The east window of the north aisle has likewise been furnished with the same rich material, the central compartment being occupied by a highly-interesting picture of St. Michael the Archangel, overcoming the daring and ambitious leader of the rebellious host of fallen angels; while a figure of St. Patrick driving a serpent before him appears in one of the side divisions, and one of St. Bridget in the other. This church is dedicated to St. Michael and St. Bridget.

The elegant altars of the Lady Chapels already alluded to were presented by John Thomas Devereux, Esq., D.L., late M.P. for the borough; and are of Caen stone, highly enriched and elaborately wrought, with pillars and inlaid panels of Irish marble, from the quarries of Cork and Galway. They are both of the same size, but differ in their details and principal features, each finding in the admiring beholders those who, according to their respective tastes, give a preference to one above its fellow. The figure of the Blessed Virgin, by which each of them is distinguished, together with the angelic statuettes, and the elegant niches, with their crocketed gables, excite the interest and admiration of the visitor. The floors of the sanctuary and side chapels are laid with Maw's peculiarly rich and beautiful encaustic tiles; and those of the nave and aisles are finely tesselated with red and black tiles of a superior description. The piscinas, which are formed in the walls on the Epistle sides of the altars in the chancels and side chapels of each church, are rare specimens of their kind, and are therefore entitled to the marked attention of the visitor. The light and elegant organ gallery, which occupies the entire bay from the divisional wall of the tower to the first column, in the western end of the nave in each church, is supported in the centre of the front by finely-formed wooden pillars, wrought so as to correspond with the nicely-carved balustrade, consisting of a series of oblong arches, which are in keeping with the character and style

of the divisional compartments of the several windows. A large and splendid organ, built by Telford, at an expense of £500, occupies the gallery of each church, and from its characteristic illuminations, and its graceful curving front, confers a dignity and beauty on this part of the church; while the quality and compass of its tones are such as might be expected from the character and experience of its constructor. Magnificent lights have also been provided for the churches, twelve of which, consisting of seven separate jets of gas, stand, one in the centre of each of the six arches, on each side of the nave, exclusively of those which are filled up with the beautiful screens. These very nice branches stand over 9 feet in height, the finely-turned wooden pillars being more than 4 feet high, while the rich fluted brazen shafts which spring from them are about 5 feet to their highest point. The general furniture of the churches, consisting of the confessionals, seats and forms, harmonises with the style of the buildings. Soon after the opening of the churches for divine worship, some exquisitely executed statues were placed within them, two of which were presented by the late Countess of Shrewsbury. One of these, an uncommonly beautiful figure of the Holy Virgin trampling on the head of the serpent, is placed on the south side of the nave, in front of the column of her chapel, in the Church of the Immaculate Conception. The other, an equally beautiful figure of the Blessed Virgin and her glorious Infant, occupies a similar position in the Church of the Assumption, and, like the former, is supported on an elegant pedestal of Caen stone, decorated with rich and delicate foliations. On the north side of the nave, in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, in correspondence with the statue of the Virgin on the opposite side, is a noble statue of St. Joseph, supported on a well-proportioned pedestal. The fine figure of a dead Christ, which is deposited beneath the altar-table in the Elizabeth Chapel, and the exceedingly beautiful statue of St. Patrick in the Church of the Assumption, are also entitled to notice and admiration.

I have been somewhat circumstantial in my endeavours to describe these churches, as I entertain the notion that many of my readers who subscribed towards their erection will doubtless take a lively interest in them, and will be pleased to learn that the money so generously given has not been injudiciously expended.

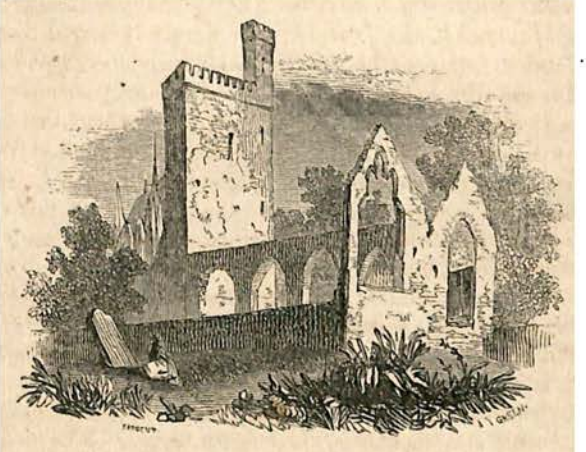
In attestation of the gratifying fact that Wexford has long been a truly religious and moral town, we are informed that in the parish and liberty of the town, according to the Roman Catholic divisions, there were in former days no less than seventeen churches. We also find that, pursuant to a visitation made under royal authority in the year 1615, there were so many as twenty churches in the ecclesiastical district of Wexford. Among these, in all probability, were enumerated those in the rural divisions, including Maudlintown, Kerlogue, Drinah, Rathaspeck, Kildavin, Carrig, and Ardcandrisk. Within the precincts of the town, but on the outside of the ancient town-wall,

are the following places, where, as we have reason to believe, churches formerly stood. The first of these is St. Michael's of Feagh, commonly called the Faythe, where, in the vicinity of the ancient churchyard, still a popular place of interment, the church dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel is supposed to have stood, although at present there are no vestiges of it remaining. On the south side of Bride Street stood the ancient Church of St. Bridget, of which, any more than that of St. Michael, there are now no remains. The new Church of the Assumption has been built upon a portion of the ground appertaining to this church. At the Old Pound, which is but a short distance from the last-mentioned place, are the remains of an ancient church dedicated to St. Peter. Several large stones, which constituted portions of the foundation, appear protruding above the mound of earth which occupies the comparatively extensive area or square, which is bounded on the south by a small stream, on the east by the ancient town-wall, and on the north and west by large stores and dwelling-houses. Another of these ancient churches stood immediately adjoining the churchyard of St. John's, near John's Gate; but at present there are no vestiges of any such building to be seen here. In this churchyard has been erected a fine monument over the vault wherein the late wife of John Hyacinth Talbot, Esq., D.L., and the only child and heiress of the late Walter Redmond, Esq., is interred. From the most authentic sources we find that a religious house was founded at Wexford, by William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, for Knights Hospitallers of St. John the Baptist of Jerusalem, which was dedicated to that saint and St. Bridget. We find that conventual friars of the Franciscan order were established at Wexford in the reign of Henry III.; and in the year 1380, as we are informed, the brethren of this order obtained the possession of the convent and church of St. John and St. Bridget, which had previously belonged to the Knights Hospitallers, whose order was abolished about this time. It is stated by Hooker, that Maurice Fitz-Gerald, who died at Wexford in the year 1176, was buried in the monastery of the Grey Friars without the walls of the town. According to the "Annals of the Four Masters," this distinguished Anglo-Norman leader died on the 1st of September, 1177. The present convent of the Friars of the Franciscan order is situated at a short distance outside of the town-wall; but whether it was at this place, or in any of the churches just mentioned, this distinguished leader, and head of the Geraldines, was interred, it is now almost impossible to say.

Of the churches within the walls, that of Selskar Abbey was the most extensive and important in the town or neighbourhood. It was erected by one of the Roches, Lords of Fermoy, whose ancestor came over to this country at the period of the Anglo-Norman invasion. We are informed that the noble family of Roche was descended from Hugh de la Roche, whose ancestors had followed William the Conqueror into England. Hugh crossed over with Strongbow into Ire-

land, under Henry II., and, as we have reason to believe, obtained a portion of land in that part of the county of Wexford on the eastern side of the river Slaney—extending for a considerable distance north and north-west from Ferry Carrig, where Fitz-Stephen built his castle. The portion of the county thus allotted to him is still called Roche's Land. Like Robert Fitz-Stephen, Milo de Cogan, and Philip de Barry, Hugh de la Roche obtained large grants of land in the county of Cork, where he ultimately settled. We find that Ralph, son of Alexander de la Roche, one of the descendants of Hugh, married, in the fourteenth century, Elizabeth, third daughter of Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hereford, to whom some of his biographers give a descent from Charlemagne, through a great number of kings and sovereign princes. This illustrious house continued to flourish in great splendour until Cromwell's revolution, when David Roche, Viscount Fermoy, sacrificed, by his loyalty and devotion to his legitimate sovereign, Charles I., not only his title, but a large portion of his property, including an extensive estate still known in that district as Roche's Country. It is exceedingly gratifying to know that the lineal descendant of this noble family has recently been restored to the rank and title—that of Lord Baron Fermoy—which was worthily held by his ancestors.

The remains of the ancient church of Selskar Abbey are still in tolerable preservation, but of the abbey itself there are now no vestiges. This interesting temple of religion, which may be said to have been a blending of the Norman with the Saxon or Early English style of



SELSKAR ABBEY.

architecture, was composed of a double roof, and may be considered somewhat in the light of two chapels placed beside each other, and merely separated by a series of wide and noble arches, four in number, resting on massive pillars, two of which are square, and the other of

octagonal form. The western gables, and three of the slightly-pointed arches, are still entire, but the side walls are entirely removed. The windows of the gables afford evidence of their original beauty in their general contour, as well as in the portions of their traceried heads, which are still to be seen projecting from the stone architraves, which are of excellent chiseling. That in the northern compartment is of triple character. At the eastern end of the southern division of the church stands the ancient square castle, with which there was a communication from the sacred edifice. This castle, which is externally about 25 feet square, resembles the generality of those built about the same period, and was doubtless intended as a defensive appendage to the abbey. It is in excellent preservation, having been well built with, what is not very usual in buildings of its class, cut stone quoins. It is about 80 feet in height, with lights of limited dimensions, and slits for the discharge of arrows. It has recently undergone improvements and restorations, the small turret which rises on its south-western angle, as well as the summit in general, being ornamented with embrasure embattlements. In the western face of the lower part of this tower, and within the recess formed by what was originally the entrance to the interior of it, are to be seen some ancient relics, consisting of slabs inlaid in the wall—one of them of tolerably large size—with marginal inscriptions, which are not very easily deciphered. Another, of smaller size, and also of square form, appears to be an armorial memento, with appropriate devices. The third is an old and considerably decayed stone, in the face of which appears a human figure in bas-relief, the hands being crossed upon the breast. A rude and very old stone coffin is to be seen in the surrounding churchyard, standing as a headstone to an ordinary grave. A strong and ancient castle, which is attached to the town-wall, stands a few yards north-west of the churchyard of the abbey, and was doubtless an appendage to the monastery. In style and appearance it greatly resembles that which I have been just describing, being equally strongly built, and of the same superficial extent and height, the only difference being in the quoins, which are of plain stone. On the north-western, as well as on the south-western angle, rises a turret similar to that which distinguishes the south-western angle of the other castle. In the ground story of this old castle an extensive and massive arch formed a thoroughfare, which afforded the inmates of the abbey convenient egress and ingress; while it was so far capable of being defended as to preclude the possibility of danger from external aggression.

A very handsome small Protestant church, or chapel of ease, about 60 feet in length and 25 in breadth in the clear, was erected in the year 1818, east of the tower of the ancient abbey church, with which it is connected by a vestibule. It is in the Early English style of architecture, with a panelled buttress on each angle, terminating in a handsome pinnacle. Plain buttresses, five in number, rise on each of its sides, and terminate in weathering points about

3 or 4 feet above the eave-course. Between each of these and the buttresses of the angles appear the lancet-shaped windows, six in each side. In the east or chancel end is a fine triplet window of the same character, the central compartment rising above those on either side. A sweet-toned organ was presented to this church some years ago, by a respectable resident lady; a bell has been recently appended to it; and the gallery and body of the church have been divided into neat and convenient stalls. Standing as it does in the vicinity of the noble ruin, and sheltered and protected by the ancient abbey tower, it presents a rich and comparatively venerable appearance. A Temperance Hall, which has latterly been used as a lecture hall for the Mechanics' Institute, was erected immediately adjoining the northern boundary wall of the churchyard of the abbey, subsequent to the visit of the great apostle of the temperance cause, the Very Rev. Father Mathew, in 1835. A considerable improvement has recently been made in this part of the town, Mr. Richard Macdonnell having, by a large outlay of capital, erected a splendid hotel, which is situated immediately opposite the abbey grounds. From the front windows of this excellent establishment, the grand and picturesque ruins of the church, the castles, and the ancient town-wall are fully open to the visitor's view, and will doubtless, not unfrequently, form interesting subjects for the pencil of the accomplished artist, or for the enthusiastic amateur.

The ruins of the ancient Church of St. Patrick are situated in the centre of the popular burial-ground of that parish, which is immediately adjoining and within the ancient town-wall, and are in a state of tolerable preservation, the side walls and gables, with the central arches, being nearly entire. The style of this building was that of the Saxon-Gothic, being much plainer in its character and construction than the church of Selskar Abbey. Like that church, however, it was composed of a double roof, and divided by a series of arches of smaller size, and more sharply pointed, than those of the abbey church. Each division consisted of a nave and choir, separated by a magnificent arch, above which rose a divisional wall corresponding in style and appearance with the gables of the respective chapels; that of the south chapel being adorned with a double belfry, similar to that which rose upon the western gable of the north chapel. The arcade arches which divided the nave into separate compartments, four in number, are still entire, and rest upon low plain piers; but those which divided the choir have fallen. The windows in general were of small size; that which occupied the western gable of the southern compartment of the nave exhibits in the stone architraves some appearances of tracery; while that in the eastern end of the south chancel displays some remains of ornamentation. The west window of the north chapel, of three lancet compartments, divided by strong mullions, is still entire. Within the body of the nave are a couple of stones, which are embellished with sculptured illustrations

of the several interesting events connected with the passion and death of our Blessed Redeemer. In St. Mary's churchyard, which is also inside of the town-wall, and within about 200 yards of that of St. Patrick's, are also the ruins of a church, consisting of the northern side wall and the western gable, with its double belfry. This church consisted of a nave and south aisle, the aisle being divided from the nave by a row of beautiful arches springing from elegant columns, which, together with the eastern gable and the splendid chancel window, were standing about sixty years ago, I heard the late Very Rev. Dr. Corrin say that this was the last of the ancient churches in which mass had been celebrated.

Near the south entrance to this ruin, I observed, some years ago, a curious and elaborately-wrought stone, the chiseling of which was clear and perfect, upon which appeared a representation of the Crucifixion, with the thirty pieces of silver for which Judas betrayed our Blessed Saviour; and also the cock, the crowing of which awakened St. Peter to a consciousness of his great offence in having denied his Divine Master; together with several other memorials of our Redeemer's passion and death. Another ancient church—a small plain structure, the site of which is now occupied by extensive stores—was situated near the castle gate and within the town wall, in the immediate vicinity of the present military barracks. This church was called St. Doologue's, supposed to be a corruption of St. Olave's, which, in all probability, like St. Doologue's, near Dublin, was built by the Danes, of whose country St. Olave was a native, and held in great reverence by them. The last of the parish churches used for Roman Catholic worship was that which stood on the western side of High Street, and adjoining the town-wall, nearly opposite the new shambles and theatre, and of which, like the last-mentioned church, there are now no vestiges remaining. It appears that when this church fell into dilapidation, and, according to the penal enactments of that period, could not be replaced by a new one, the parish priest was obliged to avail himself of the hospitality and kindness of the brethren of the Franciscan order of Friars, to celebrate mass and to administer the sacraments in their church, and thenceforward a union has continued to exist between the parochial clergy and the pious brethren of the convent, to the present day. The convent and church of the Franciscan Fathers, as before stated, are situated at an inconsiderable distance on the outside of the ancient town-wall, at the upper end of Mary Street. This church, which was originally dedicated to St. John and St. Bridget, was entirely rebuilt about seventy-three years ago, conjointly by the brethren of the convent and the parish, under the immediate direction of Father Corrin, parish priest; and was then a fine oblong structure, second, perhaps, to no edifice of the kind in any country town in Ireland. But the increasing congregation of the parish rendered it expedient, some forty years since, to enlarge it by an additional wing or transept, which extends north of the eastern

gable. About twenty-five years ago a further enlargement took place, which was effected by the erection of side galleries, whereby the uniformity of the building was interfered with and the harmony of its appearance injured. Within the last year, however, this fine church has been restored to its original state, with the exception of the transept, which still remains; but the transept gallery, the side galleries, and that which occupied the western end of the church, have all been removed, and improvements and decorations carried out which have rendered this not only a convenient, but even a very beautiful house of worship. Circumstances of a remarkably favourable nature have led to this most desirable state of things. The most important of these grew out of the event of the property of the owners of the estate upon which the church, convent, cemetery, and the commodious area in front of the church and convent stands, having been placed in the Incumbered Estates Court; whereby the brotherhood were enabled to purchase the whole of these premises, which were then out of lease, for ever; and, consequently, they now hold them entirely free of rent, although they were willing, previously to the purchase, to take them under lease at £20 a year. The extensive improvements on this church were chiefly carried out under the direction and inspection of Mr. Patrick O'Connor, a very rising and clever young man, whose character and talents as a builder and a worker in rich and ornamental stucco, have been tested and highly appreciated in the splendid decorations of Johnstown Castle, and in other parts of the county, and also in the county of Carlow. His first contract with the pious brotherhood was for the entirely new roofing of the church, which he executed to their fullest satisfaction, and his next was for the construction and insertion of new doors and windows. The former windows, which were in the plain Doric style, have now been replaced by others partaking of the Italian, with external stone architraves, and internal deep panellings and mouldings of Portland cement. The columns, formerly of the Doric order, which support the roof and divide the centre or nave from the sides or aisles, with their plain caps, have all been changed to the Grecian-Ionic style; and with their enriched capitals, and handsome volutes, and the finely-cased mouldings of their basements, present a very pleasing and attractive appearance. The beautiful panelled ceilings of the sides, also in the enriched Grecian style, which are elaborately wrought in pairs, corresponding with each of the bays that intervene between the respective columns, with their splendid and varied marginal mouldings and their light and elegant foliated centres, the leaves of which may be said to resemble, in their curls, the symmetrical delicacy of the most graceful and gossamer-like feathers, command the attention of the most ordinary visitor, and call forth the admiration of all who have the slightest pretension to judgment and taste. The decoration and embellishment of the vaulted or barrelled central ceiling are in perfect harmony with its rich and beautiful adjuncts; and are viewed with pride

and delight by the large and highly gratified congregation. As I have already stated, the crowding and darkening galleries have been removed, and the church thereby disburthened of its heaviness and consequent gloom; while the transept, which in length extends so as to embrace two of the side bays, or two-fifths of the entire length of the building, and which in width is of nearly similar extent, presents a fine appearance, and is not only an unobjectionable, but even a desirable, appendage to the church. The ceiling of the transept is wrought in panelled divisions, so as to accord and harmonise with the beauty and grandeur of the main parts of the building; while the entablature, which is supported by the side columns and the elegant pilasters that form the arrises on the east and west extremities of the church, is a strikingly bold and conspicuous feature. The under portions of this entablature, and the rich bands that divide the several compartments of the ceilings, are splendidly panelled with beautiful foliations, displaying both leaves and fruit. The fine cornice, which at the upper part of the wall-plate extends round the sides of the church and transept, is in excellent proportion, and perfectly in keeping with the entablature and the other portions of the grand decorations. The walls of the church are wainscoted to the height of the lower parts of the windows; and the floor rendered warm and comfortable by well-adjusted tiling. There are five large windows on the south side of the church, and three on the north side, with one of similar size and style in the western front of the transept. There are two windows of the same style, but of greater height and of slender proportions, in the north front of the transept, one on each side of the bell-tower. Above the principal entrance, which is in the western extremity of the north side, immediately over the ample head light of the door, which corresponds with the finely-arched heads of the windows, appear the armorial bearings of the brethren of the convent, consisting of arms and hands crossed as if in prayer; which are boldly developed in sculpture, with ornamental accessories, and a plain Latin cross, surrounded by a glory, rising between the extended arms. On the eastern gable of the church stands a massive cross, the head of which is enclosed within an encircling band; it is supported on each side by a large ornamental ogee, composed of a dense block of granite.

One of the most striking and magnificent features in the whole church is the unique and really beautiful organ gallery, which, while it affords the requisite accommodation to those engaged in the choral department, renders paramount service in finishing and ornamenting the western end of the church. It may be said to present, in its projection, a semi-hexagon figure, the central part of which exhibits a flat face, and is supported on each extremity by elegant coupled columns of the Grecian-Ionic order, corresponding in style with the side columns of the church; while the bold and semicircular convex sides rest upon handsome pilasters of the same order attached to the end or western wall. The breastwork of the gallery is supported

by the magnificent entablature, complete in all its parts, which, resting upon the coupled columns and pilasters just mentioned, is continued round the front and sides of the entire gallery. The mouldings and decorations of the several members of this entablature are gorgeous in the extreme, and every way worthy of their designer, Mr. Byrne, architect, Dublin, who prepared the plans for the ornament and decoration of the church; and of Mr. O'Connor, Wexford, who was engaged in carrying them into execution. The new and beautiful organ contributes in no trifling degree to the embellishment of this part of the building; its richly-gilt pipes, which rise nearly to the top of the arched ceiling, being flanked on each side by a splendid canopied niche surmounted by a cross; that on the north side containing a fine statue of St. John, and that on the south being graced by an equally beautiful one of St. Bridget; these being the patron saints of the church. The beautiful bell tower, which rises before, and is attached to, the north front of the transept, stands upon a massive and slightly battering basement of cut granite. It is about 19 feet by 19, and consists of four stages, the height from the base to the summit of the crowning cross being 104 feet. The first story is constructed entirely of cut granite, and is of rusticated workmanship, with elaborately-wrought vermiculated quoins. In the western face of this story is an entrance to the transept by a finely-arched door, with rich stone jambs and arch mouldings; and in the north and east sides a window of the same character. The upper stories are constructed of the same description of stones as those that compose the new churches, which, being of a purple hue, contrast finely with the deep rusticated granite quoins. In each of the three sides of the second story is a fine window of larger size than those in the lower story, with cut stone architraves and ornamental ogees. Its finely-rounded arch is surmounted by a very rich projecting cornice, terminating on each side in pendant ornaments. Another window, not quite so large, but of the same character and appearance, with architraves, ogees, and bold cornice, occupies the upper portion of each side of this story. The third story, which constitutes the ringing chamber, and in which has been placed the powerful bell, shows three beautiful and finely-arched lights in each of its four sides. This story is terminated by an exceedingly rich granite cornice; while a plain granite belt-course divides it from the second story. The final or clock story is enriched on each angle by a panelled pilaster, and shows a bold and deeply-moulded circular niche, for the reception of the clock dial, in each of its four sides; while the summit is surmounted by a highly ornamental cornice, supported on each side by a range of cantilever brackets; the whole being crowned by a beautiful ribbed and curving roof, which partakes in some degree of the Chinese character; from the apex of which rises a richly-gilt ball and cross. This beautiful tower, which is in the Romanesque style, commands the notice and admiration of the visitor. Within the church are some handsome

monuments—one to the Right Rev. Dr. Caulfield, Bishop of Ferns; one to the Right Rev. Dr. Lambert, Bishop of Newfoundland; one to the Very Rev. Dr. Corrin, parish priest of Wexford and Vicar-General of the diocese of Ferns, who, full of years, and universally lamented, died in 1835; and one to the Very Rev. Dr. Sinnot, also parish priest and Vicar-General of the diocese, and for many years President of St. Peter's College, who departed this life in 1850, as deeply regretted as he was esteemed and venerated by a large circle of private friends and a host of patriotic admirers, of whom he was at once the model and the guide. Three of these monuments are of marble, attached to or inlaid in the wall. That to the greatly beloved and venerated Father Corrin is situated on the south side of the church, between the two windows next to the eastern end, and in style and appearance may be considered a representation of a highly-enriched and elegant Gothic chapel, composed of Portland stone; the buttresses, pinnacles, end windows, and open side arch of which are elaborately wrought and decorated with beautiful foliations and crocketed ornaments. The good pastor is represented in the sleep of death, lying at full length on the sarcophagus or altar tomb, his hands folded on his breast as if in prayer; with a dog at his feet. The features, and the folds of his clerical habit, are finely portrayed and perfectly natural.

The altars of this church are perfectly in keeping with its general characteristics. The grand altar presents a very fine appearance, the front and sides being of the choicest statuary marble, and the panels of the beautiful green from Connemara. The rich beading and workmanship are of a superior description. The tabernacle, also of splendid statuary marble, is an elegantly-wrought and imposing feature, which stands about 6 feet in height. The apex of the graceful curving canopy, which is in the style of the roof of the beautiful campanile already mentioned, supports a finely-carved and richly-gilt figure of our Blessed Redeemer hanging on the cross. On each of the lateral extensions of the altar are based a beautiful fluted column of the Corinthian order, and two pilasters of the same order, the rich capitals of which support the magnificent entablature and richly-wrought segmental pediment, which corresponds with the vaulted ceiling of the nave. In the centre of the altar-table appears, in *alto-relievo*, an elegant chalice, surrounded by a radiating glory, and on each extremity a pilaster, with an exquisitely-decorated sunk panel. The side altars—one to the Blessed Virgin, and the other to St. Francis—are also of white marble, with panels of richly-veined marble of beautiful amber colour. On each of their extremities a graceful column of the Ionic order in front, and a pilaster of the same order in the rear, support an entablature, surmounted by an angular pediment, from the apex of which springs a light Latin cross. A fine painting of the Virgin and Child furnishes an appropriate emblem for the Lady's Altar, on the front of the table of which appears the significant name *Maria*. On the same part of the other, which is

on the Epistle side of the grand altar, appear the crossed arms which constitute the armorial bearings of the Franciscan order, surrounded by a finely-chiseled radiating glory, in the centre of which, and between the arms, rises a plain cross. These beautiful altars were manufactured by Mr. Manderson, of Dublin, after designs by Mr. Byrne, architect, of that city; while the columns, entablatures, and pediments, were executed under the direction and superintendence of Mr. Patrick O'Connor, builder, Wexford, who carried out the restorations in general. The sanctuary is floored with Portland stone, and enclosed by ornamental railings.

The convent of this place, which was rebuilt in the year 1802, is a commodious oblong house of three stories in height, with a parapeted front, and is well suited to the requirements of the reverend brethren, whose average number is generally about six. It is situated immediately west of the church, with the organ gallery of which there is a communication from the principal corridor. On the western extremity of the convent stands a neat fanciful structure, which was erected in 1834. This ornamental appendage to the main building, beyond the front of which it projects considerably, is graced in the centre of its northern façade by a projecting and attached tower of light proportions, and of five distinct stages, the summit being ornamented by a small pinnacle on each angle, and by embrasure decorations on each side. From the middle of the final story, and between the angular and side decorations, rises a small octagonal turret, with louvre windows in its eight sides, surmounted by a cupola, which supports a ball and cross. This pleasing and tasteful adjunct to the parent establishment has been appropriated to a library. Prior to the erection of Father Roche's Churches, this graceful and ornamental structure was the most elevated and conspicuous object in the town. Before the principal or north front of the conventual buildings is an extensive area about 200 feet by 150, which is bounded on the west by the convent and grounds of the Nuns of the Presentation order; while a handsome dwarf wall, coped with granite, and supporting an elegant iron railing, divides it from John Street on the east, and Francis Street on the north. South of the church and convent is situated the extensive cemetery, which is much used as a place of interment, and within which are several fine tombs and handsome monuments. Around its sides are some young and thriving trees, including the poplar, the cypress, and the willow. The greater number of the respectable Roman Catholic parishioners having relatives interred in the cemetery, are partial to the church of this convent. It possesses additional claims to their grateful and devoted feelings from being the place where they first bent their knees in infancy, and imbibed religious impressions from their venerated and deceased instructors. Besides these early and cherished advantages, the people of Wexford feel a just and laudable pride in the number of able and distinguished men which the Franciscan convent has produced. We ourselves can well remember many

of them, including Dr. Lambert, Dr. Scallan, and Dr. Fleming, all graduates and brothers of this convent, and successive bishops of Newfoundland. The celebrated and justly-renowned Father Richard Hayes, several years since deceased, was also a brother of this house, and a native of the town. His cousin-german, the late Right Rev. Dr. Hughes, Bishop of Gibraltar, also a native of the town of Wexford, recently died in this convent, of which he was a graduate, and to which an undying attachment caused him once more to return. This amiable and pious prelate, owing to his delicate state of health, was obliged to relinquish his episcopal functions, and seek a mitigation of his sufferings in his native country. Like the devoted brethren of the order to which he belonged, however, he did not indulge an inglorious ease, for until entirely prostrated by severe illness, he was found almost as frequently as the most youthful member of his brotherhood, preaching the Divine truths and maxims of the Gospel; the exalted duties of which he as scrupulously and sedulously practised, as he zealously and eloquently inculcated. Of the piety and virtue of many of the less distinguished fathers of the convent who lived and died amongst them, the people of Wexford cherish a fond and grateful recollection.

The site of the ancient Church of St. Iberius is at present occupied by the Protestant church of the parish, a spacious building of some 80 or 90 years' standing, of a strong and comparatively plain appearance, in the Doric style of architecture. It is about 80 feet in length and 40 in breadth in the clear, and displays its characteristic front of two stories to the main street, in the most central part of the town. The front consists of a slightly projecting centre and two wings, the extremities of which are enriched with cut granite quoins. In the first story of the centre are three semicircular windows, with bold architrave mouldings, and in the second three plain windows, with similar architraves and mouldings; while above them rises a pediment, in the tympanum of which is a handsome clock. Above and in the rear of the strong pediment rises the steeple, with its louvre windows, surmounted by a cupola supporting an ornamental ball; there is a good and clear-toned bell in the steeple. The church is entered in each of the side wings by a door, which is approached by a couple of steps from a platform that extends before the entire front of the building. This area, which is enclosed within a neat iron railing, is raised above the level of the street, and is also approached by granite steps. The jambs of each door are composed of alternate square and circular granite blocks, and support an entablature and massive pediment. On each of the sides of these doors is a handsome and finely-arched window, with stone architraves and mouldings similar to those of the semicircular windows in the first story of the centre. Above the crowning pediment of the door in each wing, and on a line with the windows of the second story of the centre, appears a segmental window, which extends so as to furnish the entire of the

second story, which terminates on a line with the base-course; above which rises the pediment which surmounts the summit of the slightly-projecting centre. This widely-spreading window is divided by two stone mullions, and decorated with mouldings which harmonise with the bold and striking decorative appendages of the windows and the other portions of the front. The interior is in keeping with its external appearance. A neat gallery runs round three of the sides, the western one having in its centre a handsome organ. The fourth or eastern side is that appropriated to sacramental purposes, and forms a semicircular recess, divided by an open screen of two pilasters, and two columns with highly-enriched capitals, which, being of the composite order, are not in harmony with the other portions of the church, which, as I have before stated, is in the Doric style. Recent improvements have been made in this part of the church, and the position of the pulpit and reading-desk changed, which gives it a much lighter appearance. Indeed, I have always considered it a handsome and solemn-looking church. Several interesting monuments, which have been raised to commemorate great public and private worth, are to be seen on the north and south galleries. Among these are two very handsome ones erected to the memory of two gallant youths—one of them an officer in the army, and the other in the navy—which are situated in the north gallery. That to Mr. William Perceval, a native of the town or neighbourhood, displays a large mural slab, which chronicles the gallantry of the brave youth, who fell gloriously in the twenty-first year of his age, while in command of a boarding party, off the coast of Istria. This slab is supported on each side by a cannon with the muzzle downwards; while a shell, with its blazing fuse, stands above each breech. Over these appears a representation of the ocean, with the stern part of a ship of war, and beneath the ship a boat filled with seamen; their leader, sword in hand, standing on her stern and cheering them on; the whole being surmounted by the figure of a young naval officer, crowned with an encircling wreath of laurel. The captain and officers of his ship, the frigate *Havanna*, caused this monument to be erected to his memory, as a sincere tribute to departed worth, as well as of their admiration of the heroic manner in which he fell. The other is a very beautiful monument, composed of black and white marble, which has but recently been erected by an affectionate parent, to the memory of a beloved and a favourite grandchild. This was another heroic victim, who, in the cause of honour and the service of his country, fell in the attack upon Rangoon, on the 14th of April, 1852. This brave young officer, Lieutenant Robert Doran, was the second son of John Doran, Esq., Major in the 18th Royal Irish Regiment, by his wife Georgiana, only daughter of Robert Hughes, Esq., of Ely House. Mr. Robert Doran, in addition to his Lieutenancy, filled the important post of Adjutant in the 18th Royal Irish, his father's regiment, and in which he served with distinction for upwards of thirty years. Lieutenant Doran was only five days married

to a daughter of the late Thomas Bracken, Esq., of Belchamp Hall, Suffolk, and of Calcutta, when war called him to the post of duty. He was killed at the storming of the fortified pagoda at Rangoon. The despatches announcing the fall of that place and his death arrived at Calcutta together. They mentioned him as having fallen at the head of his men, while cheering them on to the attack; his own daring spirit impelling him to endeavour to be the first to plant the colours of his country on the enemy's walls. He was pierced with seven bullets, and died after lingering for an hour. The night before his death, he had written in pencil, under a waggon, a note to his wife, stating that he had just prayed to God that he might be spared for her sake. The monumental inscription runs as follows:—

"Sacred to the Memory of Robert Doran, Esq. (born the 18th of August, 1827), late Lieutenant and Adjutant in her Majesty's 18th Royal Irish, who fell at the storming of the great Pagoda at Rangoon, on the 14th of April, 1852, where his mortal remains lie interred. This monument is erected by his afflicted and sorrowing grandfather, Robert Hughes, Esq., of Ely House, as a tribute of affection to him whose loss he greatly deplores."

Offering the tribute of a sigh to the memory of the young and brave—what heart could deny them that?—I withdrew, reflecting on the nothingness of this fleeting world; and while meditating on their short but glorious career, the recollection of the intense sufferings of their sorrowing friends, and the frail and transient tenure of human happiness, arose vividly before me. Were we to measure its duration by the standard of hers, who was but a few days before the happy and joyous bride of a young and gallant husband, how truly evanescent it becomes! Before the expiration of the first week of her honeymoon she was deprived of him whose martial bearing, personal graces, and amiable qualities, were the theme of every tongue.

From the foregoing observations it will be seen that Wexford is now well provided with church accommodation, and that the good old town has not greatly degenerated from the character it early acquired for piety and virtue. The Protestant portion of the inhabitants possess all they require in the last-mentioned Church of St. Iberius, and that of Selskar; while the Catholics, who were for nearly two centuries greatly stinted in this respect, are at present amply accommodated in the two new churches recently opened, and in that of the brethren of the Franciscan order; now, as I have endeavoured to show, a very beautiful and commodious church. Besides these, persons of the Roman Catholic persuasion, should they be so disposed, may hear mass at the fine chapel of St. Peter's College, and occasionally at the beautiful chapels of the Nuns of the Presentation order, and of the Sisters of Mercy. There are three houses of worship for Dissenters in the town. That for the Wesleyan Methodists is situated at the upper end of Lower Rowe Street, to which street it shows its southern side, which, with its entrance door, five lancet-shaped windows, and granite quoins, has

a pretty appearance. The limited area, which extends the entire length of the building, before the front, is enclosed by a neat iron railing, and is approached from the street by three granite steps. There are two windows in the western end, of similar size and shape as those in the side front. This chapel was erected in 1835 by Mr. Thomas Willis, builder. That for Presbyterians, also erected by Mr. Willis, in the year 1844, is situated on the north side of Anne Street, to which it shows its handsome gabled front, which is supported on each extremity by a buttress of two weathering stages, from which springs an ornamental pinnacle. A similar pinnacle rises from the apex of the gable; while above the door, which is surmounted by a widely-spreading Gothic arch, appears a fine window of three mullions, placed within an arch of the same style and character. There are three plain Gothic windows on each side of the building, consisting of a pair of lancet-shaped pattern, placed beside each other, with a sub-light in the intervening spandril. The small area before the front is enclosed by a neat iron railing, and approached by two steps. The meeting-house of the Society of Friends, or Quakers, is situated within an enclosed space in High Street; and for unostentatious plainness, can bear a comparison with any edifice belonging to any portion of this peculiar and singular sect in any part of Ireland. The educational establishments, of a public character, are as numerous as the churches and houses of religious worship, and may be classed as follows, viz.:—St. Peter's College, wherein respectable young men receive a classical and mercantile education, although they may not be intended for the priesthood; the Diocesan School, under the direction of William Barrington, Esq., where pupils are prepared for Trinity College, or for general, professional, and mercantile pursuits; the Parochial School, supported principally from the funds arising from Erasmus Smith's Charity, and under the direction and supervision of the Protestant rector and his curates; the National School for boys, situated near the Manse, or residence of the Catholic curates, in School Street; the school in the Faythe, which may be said to owe its existence to the benevolent Richard Devereux, and under the care of the Christian Brothers; and the school in Upper George's Street, which was erected as a testimonial to the lamented Very Rev. Dr. Sinnot, Vicar-General of the diocese, and parish priest of Wexford; to which Mr. Devereux was likewise a most liberal benefactor, having at the first meeting held by the friends of the greatly-regretted pastor subscribed £100. The committee appointed to carry out the intention of the meeting, being fully impressed with the belief that a school of this kind, in this section of the town, was long considered a desideratum by the good Doctor, came to the conclusion, that under the circumstances the establishment of such an institution would be both a desirable and characteristic mode of perpetuating the memory of the gifted deceased, who was the true impersonation of the patriot, the scholar, and the clergyman. In accordance with this resolution,

the committee set earnestly to work, and the school was opened for the reception of boys on the 1st of October, 1853, under the care of the zealous instructors of youth, the pious Christian Brothers. The first school opened in Wexford for the education of poor female children, is that under the care of the pious and devoted Sisters of the Presentation Convent, to whose unremitting zeal and attention very many of the good wives and mothers of the humble class of the inhabitants owe the blessings they now enjoy. This school is now, and has been for some years, in connection with the National Board of Education; and efforts are at present being made to afford additional accommodation to the greatly-increased number of children resorting to it. For this desirable purpose several small houses adjoining the convent, and a field containing an acre, or thereabouts, in its immediate vicinity, have been taken for the charitable Sisters; whereby they will be enabled to extend and enlarge their schools. A new and commodious school-house has been built on this ground, and is now (in the summer of 1862) nearly ready for the pupils. The Presentation Convent, being centrally situated, in the immediate vicinity of the Franciscan Convent, and near to St. Aidan's, the residence of Father Roche, the parish priest, its school is more largely attended, especially in winter and spring, than that of the Convent of the Sisters of Mercy, which is nearly half a mile from the town. The school of the good and devoted Sisters of Mercy is also in connection with the National Board, and although very well attended in the summer and autumn seasons, is inconveniently situated, especially for children of tender years. To obviate this inconvenience a school has been erected by the good and ever-considerate Richard Devereux, Esq., and a plot of ground, appertaining to it enclosed by a high and substantial boundary wall, on premises recently purchased by him, immediately adjoining the Doctor Sinnot School, in Upper George's Street. This school is intended as an auxiliary to that of the Sisters of Mercy, where, instead of children of tender age coming to the convent, the ever-charitable and unselfish Sisters, braving the inclemency of winter, with its rain and storms, will give their constant and daily attendance to their young and infant pupils, arriving every morning and returning to their convent in the evening. An infant school has for some years been established in Selskar, opposite the entrance to the abbey church, under the care and direction of several kind and respectable Protestant ladies. With such advantages as I have here endeavoured to describe, most persons would suppose that Wexford must be a very flourishing and prosperous place. But while with pride and pleasure I record such instances of its piety and virtue, I must at the same time, with much regret, state that it is far from being, at least at present, either prosperous or flourishing. That it is not so may be attributed to two principal causes, namely, the increasing shallowness of the entrance to its harbour, and the total want of railway accommodation. For while the iron horse is bounding in his unrestricted

career over some of the wild morasses of the west, we want another "Rarey" to exercise such a wholesome and salutary control over him as will induce him to turn his head more to the south and east, and thereby superinduce a more immediate facility of communication, and consequently an increased traffic, with the sister country. In common with many of the intelligent inhabitants, I entertain the belief that an extension of railway accommodation to Wexford would eventually lead to a short and direct communication with England, to which our locality more closely approximates than any other part of Ireland; and I am very strongly impressed with the conviction that, until we become participators in the advantages which it would confer, we must continue to remain in a very backward state. While, however, the people of Wexford and its neighbourhood deplore the want of accommodation in this respect, which has been so generally extended to other localities, they have reasonable grounds for hoping that, before the expiration of many years, a like advantage will be conferred upon them, as the line of railway from Bagnalstown to Wexford has been for the last two years extended to Borris, in the county of Carlow, and is now (in the month of March, 1862,) open for traffic to Ballywilliam, on the borders of our own county; while the Dublin and Wicklow line is advancing to our northern boundary, having been for more than six months opened to Rathdrum, in the neighbourhood of the renowned and charming Vale of Ovoca. Contemporaneously with the opening of the south-eastern line to Ballywilliam, two competing companies have appeared by their agents in our locality, for the purpose of laying down telegraphic wires communicating with England and this county by way of Ballygeary on the south-eastern coast of this county, and St. David's Head, on the opposite coast of South Wales; whereby London and the other important cities of Bristol and Bath will be brought into immediate communication with Dublin, Cork, and other important cities and towns in Ireland, by the shortest possible route. It will be remembered that Ballygeary and Fishguard were the points of communication selected by the late distinguished Mr. Brunel, in his great project, the Waterford, Wexford, Wicklow, and Dublin Railway; and it is somewhat assuring to find that those who are catering for the requirements of our progressive age, have thus recognised the advantages which our neighbourhood affords for their advancement. This unmistakable indication of English enlightened opinion may, to some extent, be looked upon as the precursor of something more important yet to come, and which, if it should not sooner display itself, will doubtless follow closely—the completion of the line or lines of railway to the town of Wexford. I entertain the cheering hope that when these objects are accomplished, the Great Southern and Western of Ireland, together with the Wexford, Wicklow, and Dublin Company, with which the enterprising Mr. Dargan is connected, will feel it their interest to direct the attention of the English Great Western, and the South Wales directors, to the

expediency of entering into arrangements for establishing a communication by powerful steamers with these closely-approximating points; whereby, with the construction of a short line of railway from the terminus at Wexford to Ballygeary, they would be enabled to compete successfully with the great North-Western of England, by making this the favourite route between both countries. Our prospects regarding the deepening of the bar and the improvement of the harbour are, I regret to say, by no means so cheering, as a considerable difference of opinion is entertained in reference to these vitally important subjects, by the leading and influential men of the town. At the opening of the parliamentary session of 1861 great hopes were entertained that a bill introduced by the honourable member for the borough, and backed by the honourable member for the county, John George, Esq., Q.C., late Solicitor-General, would have been passed; but owing to the opposition of the principal merchants of the port, alterations were made in some of its most important clauses by the select committee, and the consequence was that the bill was withdrawn by its promoters. Without the unanimous consent of the leading local parties, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to effect the passing of a measure through both Houses of the Legislature, which will confer borrowing powers sufficient for the accomplishment of the contemplated improvements; and therefore, if mutual concessions be not made, the chances are against any enlarged improvement being effected. The majority of the inhabitants have great confidence in the judgment and experience of their borough member, owing in a great measure to the extensive improvements which he was mainly instrumental in carrying out in the harbour of Wexford, where several thousand acres of submerged lands have been reclaimed by the Harbour Improvement Company organised by him, and of which he was the chairman. The reclamations on the north side of the harbour comprise about 2,500 acres, and those on the south side 3,000.

The grounds which adjoin the old church and cemetery of what was once the Island of Beg-Erin are remarkable for their fertility and richness. These, I rejoice to say, together with the venerable island itself form portions of the tract of ground which, upon a division of the reclaimed lands on the north side, between the proprietary in general, were allotted to John Edward Redmond, Esq., M.P., the original projector of the company. Some of the lands on this side were apportioned to William Dargan, Esq., and a still larger quantity to Sir Edward Grogan, Bart., M.P., both members of the Harbour Embankment Company. Sir Edward seems well pleased with his allotment, as he has caused extensive buildings and farm-offices to be erected upon it. The lands on the south side, which have not yet been brought under cultivation, but which it is believed will be even more fertile than those on the opposite side, are the joint property of Mr. Redmond and Mr. Dargan.

The contemplative student who has rendered himself familiar with

the history and antiquities of the district, must naturally take a deep interest in the venerable and classic locality, where St. Ibar—one of the first Christian bishops—who, as the contemporary of the great Apostle of Ireland, was instrumental in establishing the religion of our Blessed Redeemer, first founded a church and college. The only vestiges now remaining of the ancient glory of this renowned place, are the cemetery and the ruins of the small church, which consisted of a nave and choir, the former being about 30 feet in length and 12 in breadth, while the latter was about 12 feet by 12. These remains, although of a comparatively rude construction, afford evidence of substantial but irregular masonry, the stones in general being of large size, and thrown together with an apparent want of that systematic order that characterises buildings of a more modern date. The walls are 3 feet thick, and the door and windows of small size. Like many of the most interesting reminiscences connected with the antiquities of our country, those of the island of which we are now speaking appear to have been lost in what has not been inappropriately termed "the night of time;" for, although the whole of our annalists and historians speak of St. Ibar and his island home, there is but little related in reference to him, beyond the mere statement that he settled on this island, where he founded a college, lived to an advanced age, and was interred here. It appears, from the best authorities, that this distinguished saint was a native of Ulster, although his name would lead to the supposition that he was a native of Spain, or at least of Spanish descent. We find that he was associated with St. Ailbe, St. Kieran, and St. Declan, in an early mission for the conversion of Ireland, to which country, as I have mentioned elsewhere, they were returning when they met St. Patrick on his way to Rome, to receive consecration at the hands of St. Celestine, then Pope. According to O'Clery's "Irish Calendar," St. Ibar died on this island in the year 500, where his festival was kept on the 23rd of April. From this account, he must have reached a very advanced period of life, as St. Patrick, one of whose precursors he was, arrived to carry out his grand mission in the year 432. About half a dozen yards south of the chancel of the ancient church is a large flat unhewn stone, of circular form, about 6 feet in diameter, less than one-third of which is embedded in a hollow part of the ground. It sinks slightly from the perpendicular, showing a westward inclination, and bears a strong resemblance, at least in form, to those which constitute the Druids' altar in the neighbourhood of Killiney. Near the south-eastern extremity of the cemetery is a plain, coarse, granite stone about 2 feet in length by 18 inches in breadth, which lies flat upon the surface, with a rudely-carved cross upon its upper part or face, the cross being surrounded by an encircling line of equally rude chiseling. At each end of this stone stands a remarkable one, with its slender shaft embedded in the earth, and showing upon the eastern face of its circular head, which is about 12 inches in diameter, a slightly

raised Latin cross. It is supposed by some persons well versed in antiquarian lore, including Dr. Graves, of Kilkenny, who some time since paid a visit to this place, that these remarkable stones mark the place of sepulture of the patron saint of the isle; and, from their being thus placed so close to each other, and occupying so limited a space, that the person whose grave they mark was, in all probability, buried in an upright position. We know that about the period when St. Ibar died it was not unusual for saintly persons to be thus interred; as, for instance, we are informed that the body of Lupitia, the sister of St. Patrick, was discovered, at the commencement of the seventeenth century, in an upright position, deeply buried, with a cross before and behind it.

In the "Annals of the Four Masters," it is stated that Beg-Erin, and Dairinis-Caemhain, or Oak Island, also an island in Wexford Haven, were plundered by foreigners in the year 819. By the same authority we are informed that Diarmaid, Abbot of Beg-Erin, died in 884; and also that Crunnmhael, Abbot of this place, died in 964. This island, which was separated from the main-land by a deep channel, that is at present crossed by a substantial bridge, erected by the Embankment Company, formed a place of retreat, or *dernier ressort*, for the inhabitants of Wexford in cases of emergency. As an instance of this, we find that when Robert Fitz-Stephen, with some half-dozen knights, his children, and household servants, surrendered himself to a number of the people of Wexford and Hy-Kinsellagh—by whom he was besieged in his castle at Ferry-Carrig—they, after putting some of them to death, confined the remainder as prisoners at the Island of Beg-Erin.

William Marshal, Earl Marshal of England and Earl of Pembroke, who was married to Isabel, the only child and sole heiress of Earl Strongbow, whose five sons died without issue, left behind him five daughters. The second of these sisters, the Lady Joan, who was married to Warren de Mountchency, had assigned to her the town of Wexford as a part of her portion of her father's vast domains. The only issue of this marriage was one daughter, who was married to Aylmer de Valence, who consequently became possessed of the lordship and the town of Wexford. From this nobleman, as we are informed, the town of Wexford received its first charter of incorporation. In the year 1411, Henry IV. granted a charter to this town, as did Queen Elizabeth in 1558. The charter of James I. was granted to it in 1608, the seventh year of his reign. The charter of James II., granted in 1688, was annulled after the Revolution. There had been also a charter issued to Wexford, under the new rules of the 25th of Charles II.; but that under which the town continued to be governed up to the year 1841, when the Irish Municipal Corporations Act rendered it a nullity, was the charter granted by James I. Wexford continued to send two members to the Irish parliament till the passing of the Act of Union in the year 1800, since which period it has sent

one to the Imperial parliament. Considerable portions of the corporate lands of the town were confiscated by Oliver Cromwell, when he took possession of it. These he divided between some of his principal officers, including Colonel Ivory, Colonel Jones, and Christian Borr; to the latter of whom he granted the castle or citadel, with the grounds appertaining to it. Borr's interest in these premises became vested in the late Mr. John White, from whom John Edward Redmond, Esq., M.P., some years ago purchased it. The site of the castle, previously to White's tenure, was disposed of to the government, for the purpose of erecting upon it military barracks. Of the various plots granted to Colonels Ivory and Jones, the Geary family, who are the immediate representatives of Jones, are now possessed, Colonel Ivory having assigned his portion of them to his brother officer. The military barracks, which are capable of accommodating about two companies of infantry, are situated on a healthful elevation above the harbour, from which they are but a few perches distant, and from the refreshing breezes of which they derive considerable advantages in the summer season. The Custom House and commodious bonding stores are situated in Anne Street, near the centre of the line of quays, and the office of Inland Revenue in Rowe Street, a central part of the town; while the Post Office, and the Dublin and Waterford Coach Office, are situated midway between these two public establishments. There is a savings-bank, and also a handsome theatre, in the town. The markets are held on Wednesday and Saturday; and the fairs, according to a recent arrangement, are fixed for the 18th of March, and the first Thursday of every month.

A stranger visiting the county of Wexford, should he be desirous of viewing that portion of it which was first in the occupation of the earliest of the Anglo-Norman adventurers, will feel considerable surprise on beholding the numerous memorials of their tenure, which, in the shape of ruined castles, stud and, by their venerable appearance, invest the face of the country with an air of a peculiarly interesting and picturesque character. Some of them stand alone and unconnected with any other building, while others display the adjunct of a fortified barrier, and in many instances are attached to the comparatively modern edifice which constitutes the residence of the owner of the estate, or some opulent tenant. Mrs. S. C. Hall, than whom there cannot be a more competent authority, states that there are thirty-one of these castles in the barony of Forth, and twenty-seven in that of Bargy. Among these remarkable remnants of feudal power and local importance, Johnstown Castle, which is in the barony of Forth, stands pre-eminently conspicuous, uniting as it does the formidable strength and power of the past to the more refined and elegant characteristics of the castellated structures of the present age. Vast sums of money were expended by the late Hamilton Knox Grogan Morgan, Esq., and by his father John Grogan, Esq., in extensive alterations and improvements, on Johnstown Castle, which

is now one of the finest structures of the kind to be seen in this part of Ireland. Many of the later improvements on the castle and on that portion of the demesne and grounds immediately adjoining it, owe their existence to the refined taste and enlarged conception of the good Lady Esmonde, who in a few years after the decease of her late lamented husband, Mr. Morgan, married the Right Hon. Sir Thomas Esmonde, Bart., who is now the owner of the castle and adjoining estate, which by articles of agreement devolved upon his lady. As a matter of course, Lady Esmonde has but a life interest in the property, which, on her demise, will pass to her youngest daughter, recently married to the Right Hon. the Earl of Granard, K.S.P., and Lord-Lieutenant of the county of Leitrim.

The Countess and her elder sister, the widow of the Hon. Mr. Deane, eldest son of Lord Muskerry, are the joint heiresses of their father's large estates, which produce an annual income of £25,000. The ancient and noble family of Esmonde was founded by John Esmonde, of Johnstown, in the county of Wexford, who married Isabel, daughter of Thomas Rositer, Esq., of Rathmacnee Castle, by whom he left one son. Several members of this honourable house graced the peerage; while one of its sons was Bishop of Ferns in the early part of the fourteenth century. Of this grand castle, the demesne, lake, and gardens, I have spoken at some length in my former publication, and therefore it may not be considered necessary that I should enter upon a renewed description of them on this occasion. From the improvements, however, which have taken place in the interval which has since elapsed, and which are still being carried out under the munificent and highly-gifted Lady Esmonde, who never tires of affording employment to the skilful artisans whom she herself has trained, I cannot pass over in silence one of the most remarkable and beautiful seats in the county. The extensive and richly-wooded demesne, which comprises about 940 statute acres, including the deer park, which contains 222 acres, extends from the cemetery and nice church of Rathaspeck, where the ancestral remains of the house of Johnstown lie entombed, to the village of Mourntown, with its new and handsome Roman Catholic church; a distance of a statute mile; the castle, lake, and gardens, being on the south-eastern side, and the deer park on the north-west. There are four entrances to that portion of the demesne on which the castle stands, to three of which are appropriate gate-lodges; and an equal number to the deer park, with gate-lodges to two of them. The grand entrance, which is near the church of Rathaspeck, is formed by an ample and widely-spreading gentle curve, with a handsome, well-proportioned gate in the centre, and a corresponding wicket on each of its sides. Beyond each wicket is a beautiful lodge, which displays a semi-hexagon front, with a fine Gothic window of three lights in each of its three sides, in the lower story, and a handsome circular window above each of the former, in the upper story. The summits of each lodge, and those of the

sweeping side extensions, are decorated with embattled ornaments, which are partially concealed by the clustering luxuriant ivy by which they are enveloped. The visitor becomes greatly struck with the peculiarly rich appearance of this entrance, that leads into a lawn of great extent and beauty, through which the castle is approached by a fine spacious avenue, on each side of which are trees of great magnitude, and of a healthy and vigorous appearance. The entrance to the gardens, at which are a new castellated gate-lodge, and an ample gateway beneath an elliptic Gothic arch, is about half a mile from the grand approach just mentioned. In the gardens, and on the grounds which adjoin them, are to be seen some of the most recent improvements, among which are young and vigorous plantations, that present a rich and delightful appearance. Extensive ranges, their fronts overgrown with beautiful laurels, and presenting the appearance of verdant leafy walls, line the walks leading from the castle to the gardens; their rich natural decorations giving an air of sylvan loveliness to the intervening space. On entering the principal garden, the visitor at once becomes struck with the extent and grandeur of the conservatory, which consists of a magnificent centre, of lofty and admirable proportions, with lateral extensions ending in handsome curves at each extremity of the garden, which, as I was recently informed, comprises over three statute acres. The grand centre contains a splendid Astura, and other rare and highly-valued specimens both native and exotic; while in the side ranges are graperies and an abundance of the richest and most esteemed samples of foreign and home-grown plants.

Opposite the entrance to this part of the demesne is the castellated gateway leading into this portion of the deer park, where, on a fine elevation, encircled with beauteous trees, is an elegant turret, from the summit of which splendid views of the castle—with its auxiliary towers, its embattled summit, and its various characteristic and mullioned windows, which are in the Gothic style—can be obtained. Through the intervening vistas also appear the spreading lawns and verdant meadows, in all their luxuriance of richness and beauty; while woods, rendered hoary with time—the timber of which must be of great value—as well as fine ornamental plantations, are to be seen in every direction. In the immediate vicinity of the castle recent improvements have been effected, consisting of undulating terraces, and a rich and powerful *jet d'eau* before the north front, which corresponds in appearance with that which confers such a charm on the magnificent area that lies between the southern façade and the beautiful lake. The terrace garden, at a short distance east of the castle, has also undergone considerable improvement, a beautiful temple having been erected on its northern side, which presents two light and finely-wrought open arches to the south, and one of the same description to the east and west. In the rear of the open arches an elegant alcove is formed, which is furnished with chairs and loungers, whereon the

visitors may rest and enjoy ease and comfort, even in comparatively ungenial weather. The summit of this fanciful and unique structure is decorated with elaborate ornaments in the subdued embattled style, and the heads of the arches embellished with semicircular ornaments. In the centre of the garden a light and remarkably striking *jet d'eau* has been placed, which is formed by a bronze figure of a boy, in a half-sitting and half-kneeling attitude, who is represented, in all the wantonness of playful sportiveness, blowing into the smaller end of a horn, whereby from a tube in the larger end is propelled a light volume of water, which rises to a proportionate height. In its descent, the crystal stream, falling upon the palm of the outstretched hand of the delighted urchin, breaks into several fragments, which, in their final fall into the brimful oval reservoir, produce a very pleasing effect. That, however, which most forcibly attracts the attention of those who had not within the last few years visited Johnstown Castle, is the extensive addition that has been made to the beautiful lake. Besides the ancient and ivy-clad square tower, which stands upon the finely-planted lawn beyond the original lake, which extends before the southern façade of the grand castle, there are four elegant turrets, similar in style to that which occupies the handsome elevation in the deer park. Two of these fanciful structures, which stand at well-selected intervals from each other, on the sides of the walk that runs along the margin of the lake, are of octangular form, and the others quadrangular. Between two of these turrets, one on the north and the other on the south, the water of the upper or original lake, flowing in an easterly direction, falls over a steep precipice into the new additional basin, and in its descent produces a very fine cascade. Thus united, the entire lake may be said to occupy an area of a mile in circuit, surrounded by a fine walk or drive, its extremity being at the eastern end of the extensive valley close to the back entrance to the demesne, near the handsome Catholic church of Piercestown, which is on the Johnstown estate. About a mile from Piercestown are the church, churchyard, and castle of Rathmacnee, which are also the property of the owners of Johnstown. This castle is in a state of comparatively good preservation, having within the last hundred years constituted the residence of the Grogan family. Near the church is the neat residence of the Protestant rector. There is also a good water-mill here, which is worked by the river that, in its progress from the Mountain of Forth, intersects the Johnstown demesne, and after passing Rathmacnee, flows downwards to Light Water, and thence, near the village of Killinick, loses itself in the estuary of the harbour.

Among the latest ornamental decorations of the interior of the castle are a series of splendid Parisian mirrors, three in number, which have been placed near the extremity of the grand drawing-room. They are set in magnificently carved frames, manufactured by machinery in London, and richly gilt by Barnascone, an Italian artist, for some years resident in Wexford, and are probably the largest to be seen in this.

country. The appearance of this elegant saloon, which is grand in the extreme, is considerably enhanced by its being reflected in the magnificent mirrors, which rise from the floor to the gorgeous ceiling of the splendid chamber. The pictures, the furniture, and the various articles of *vertu* and *bijouterie*, as they strike upon the view, produce an almost magical effect on the mind of the unsuspecting visitor, who entertains a feeling somewhat approaching to regret when he discovers that, to some extent, he was labouring under a brilliant delusion; although, indeed, the beautiful reality might well suffice to satisfy the most ambitious and fastidious craving. Among the fine pictures in this drawing-room is a modern painting by the celebrated Mulrenin, who came down to the castle, at the request of Sir Thomas Esmonde, for its execution. It is of large size, and represents the Right Honourable Baronet in his Deputy-Lieutenant's uniform, and Lady Esmonde, who stands at a short distance on his right-hand side. This is an uncommonly fine painting, which, both as regards the truthfulness of the portraits and their masterly execution, reflects the highest credit on the taste and genius of the artist. That of her ladyship is full of character, being alike replete with elegance, dignity, and grace. When I paid this, my last visit to the castle, in July, 1860, workmen were engaged upon the ball-room, which, with the adjoining apartment, called the band-room, occupies the lower story of the new building erected by the late Mr. Morgan for a laboratory, he being an adept in chemical science. The splendid panelled ceiling was then in a forward state, and required only the finishing hand of the gilder for its completion. The floor was being laid with rich wood panels, prepared in London, with decorations similar to those which appear on the finest description of encaustic tiles. These, when set and polished, present a beautiful carpet-like appearance. Some highly-valued specimens of painting on marble are to be seen on the chimney-pieces of the ball-room and music-room, the delicately beautiful floral ornaments of which excite the astonishment of those who have not been previously acquainted with the interesting process by which such decoration is effected. The rich sheen of the verdant leaves, and the warm glow of the ripening fruit, form a delightful contrast with the highly-polished surface of the Bangor slate, upon which they have been so ingeniously and so artistically depicted. Elegant elliptic Gothic arches, each divided by two mullions, with finely ornamented traceried heads, stand on each side of the arcade leading from the castle to the ball-room. These several compartments will be entirely filled up with plate glass; while each side of the great arch which forms the carriage-way that intervenes between the castle and the ball-room will be furnished with folding doors, which, on the occasions of balls and other assemblies, will be closed, and will thereby afford protection and shelter to the company in their progress from the castle to the temple of gaiety and pleasure, from the inconvenience arising from unpleasant air-draughts. The upper part of this fine

adjunct to the castle is appropriated to a billiard-room, and is approached from the drawing-room story by an open corridor, lined on each side with elegant statuary. This noble castle, after many years of continuous improvement, carried out at an immense expense, is now in such a state of perfection as to elicit from those who are capable of appreciating its rare attributes, the most unqualified admiration.

With these few observations I shall conclude my notice of Johnstown Castle, being fully conscious of my inability to convey an accurate notion of its superlative claims to the attention and admiration of the visitor. The man who has the welfare of his fellow-countrymen at heart, when he visits this part of the county, will derive much gratification on observing the style and character of the houses on the Johnstown estate, where not only the habitation of the farmer, but even that of the ordinary day-labourer, is constructed of stone and roofed with slates; while the areas in front of them, being nicely planted with evergreens and flowering shrubs, impress him with the conviction that in the character of the proprietor, who had been thus sedulously attentive to the happiness and comfort of his people, were happily blended the resident landlord and the enlightened philanthropist.

A school, for the education of the children of her tenants and dependents, was, several years since, erected by the good Lady Esmonde, in which, as I have reason to believe, teachers, who possess the necessary qualifications, are provided to carry into effect the benevolent intentions of this kind and generous lady. This school-house, which is in the Elizabethan style of architecture, is situated in the immediate vicinity of the handsome church of Rathaspeck, which, with the surrounding cemetery, is on the estate of the late Thomas Willimsdorf Richards, Esq., whose fine old mansion, a quadrangular building, of ample proportions, approached by a spacious avenue lined with handsome trees, is about a furlong from the church.

Before leaving the barony of Forth, I would strongly recommend the tourist to pay a visit to Ballytrent, the seat of John Hyacinth Talbot, Esq., D.L., which is about ten miles from Wexford, and one from the Lady's Island. At this handsome residence may be seen a very interesting curiosity, namely, an extensive rath, or earth-work, the largest in this county, which has been laid out in walks and rich plantations, and appropriated to pleasure-grounds; which, being thrown open to the public by the noble-hearted proprietor, is frequently visited by respectable parties from the town of Wexford. It is beautifully situated on an elevation above the fine bathing-strand, and nearly opposite the Tuskar Lighthouse. From the observatory in the pleasure-grounds, by the aid of a powerful telescope, an extensive and beautiful marine view may be obtained, including the Tuskar, which is about three leagues from the shore. This remarkable antique mound is called the Mulgrave Rath, having acquired this

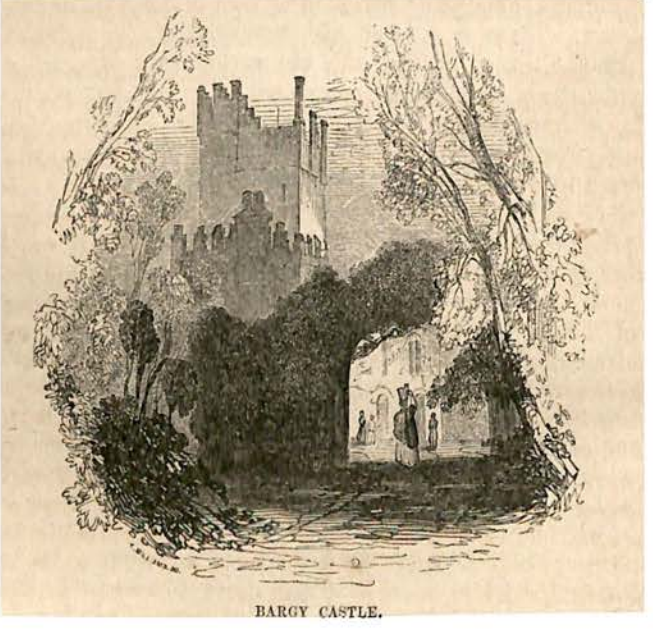
designation when the Marquis of Normanby, then Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, paid a visit to its distinguished owner, who was then sojourning there for the bathing season.

St. Margaret's, another fine marine residence, is situated about a mile from Ballytrent. This, as well as the handsome seat called Hill Castle, which is about three miles from the sea-shore, is the property of Edward Westby Nunn, Esq., who at present resides in England. The latter nice residence has been for some time in the occupation of Lemuel Furney, Esq., who holds it, and the extensive lands appertaining thereto, as tenant under Mr. Nunn. The family of Nunn have long been extensive owners of property in this part of the county; and John Nunn, Esq., of Silverspring, in this barony, is a constant resident; whose character as a landlord and an upright and impartial magistrate has rendered him deservedly popular with the people of the district. The ruins of ancient churches are as numerous as those of the feudal towers and castellated structures that in this district so frequently meet the view. One of these, the old church of Maglass, is situated on an eminence in the centre of the burial-ground of the district, about a mile from Silverspring. The ruins of this ancient structure, the side walls and gables of which are still standing, show that in size and style it was superior to the generality of the churches of the same period to be seen in the rural divisions of the barony. There is a large and comparatively modern Catholic church in the village, which, with the surrounding area, is said to occupy the site of a monastery and an adjoining castle; but there are now no visible remains of either of these buildings. There is also a school, in connection with the National Board of Education, here. In the Roman Catholic divisions the parishes of Maglass and Ballymore are united; in the latter there is also an exceedingly pretty Catholic church, adjoining which is the nice residence of the parish priest, the Rev. James Kavanagh. The Protestant church of the district is situated near the village of Killinick, and in its vicinity is the handsome cottage of the officiating minister.

The Catholic church of Tagoat, a village in the parish of Rosslare, is a large modern building, in the English Gothic style, consisting of a nave, chancel, transept, and side aisles. The chancel window, which is of stained glass, with its four lights, and its fine traceried head, is an interesting object. Those in the ends of the transept are of triplet character; while the end windows of the aisles are of two lights; those in the sides of the aisles and the clerestory being single lancets. The rich label-mouldings and the appropriate internal decorations declare this to be one of the most perfect and regular ecclesiastical edifices to be seen in any of the rural parishes in the diocese of Ferns. A new bell-tower, of three distinct stages, with a conical roof, from which springs a characteristic cross, has been recently erected at the end of the sacristy, which adjoins the extremity of the north transept.

The Protestant church of Kilscoran, also in this neighbourhood, is

a handsome structure, and with its fine pinnacled tower forms a conspicuous and interesting feature in the landscape. The glebe-house, which is nicely situated in a richly-planted lawn contiguous to the church, is a very delightful residence. At Carne, also a parish in the barony of Forth, there is a plain Protestant church of long standing. Castletown House, the fine residence of the Honourable Major Keane, who may be said to represent the old and honoured family of Palliser, is situated about the centre of the parish, and shows to much advantage when viewed from a vessel in the vicinity of the shore. At the extremity of the headland, which projects considerably into the sea in this part of the parish, is an ancient burial-ground, rarely used at present save for the interment of those who, like the passengers and crew of the ill-starred *Pomona*, are the victims of melancholy shipwreck. In the centre of this lonely churchyard are the remains of a small and very ancient ecclesiastical building, called St. Vaugh's Chapel, which, in style and dimensions, remind the visitor of the ruins of the old church in the cemetery at Beg-Erin. On the estate of Doctor Waddy, J.P., and immediately adjoining his mansion, are the remains of a quadrangular tower, in good preservation, called Clougheast Castle. It is nearly 80 feet in height, and is said to have been erected by some of the early adventurers in the reign of



BARGY CASTLE.

Henry II. Near the sea-shore, which is much resorted to for bathing purposes in the summer season, is the large mansion called Carna House, which belongs to the representatives of the late John Howlin, Esq.

Passing from this barony into that of Bargy, the tourist will have his attention directed to Bargy Castle and demesne, a fine old place, and for many centuries the residence of the ancestors of the present proprietor, Major John Harvey. The ancient castle, which forms a portion of the present mansion, is said to have been built by Hervey, of Mount Maurice, uncle to Earl Strongbow, with whom he came over to this country. We have reason to believe that the lands of Bargy formed portions of the cantreds originally granted to this distinguished adventurer. In the neighbourhood of this fine seat is the village of Tomhaggard, where, on an elevated site in the churchyard of the district, are the remains of an ancient church, which, in style and dimensions, are not unlike those which occupy a similar site at the village of Maglass. There are a small Roman Catholic chapel and a National School here. Opposite the ruins of the ancient church, in the side of an eminence that rises above the intervening valley, is a venerated spring, or holy well, dedicated to St. Anne, where, on the eve of that saint's festival, large numbers were wont to congregate when they came to dress the graves of their deceased relatives in the old cemetery.

Kilmore, a popular and excellent bathing-place, and therefore a very comfortable village, is situated in the barony of Bargy, about ten miles from the town of Wexford. From its proximity to the prolific fishing ground in its neighbourhood, a pier has been recently erected here, under the direction of the Board of Works, for the purpose of affording shelter and protection, in coarse and wild weather, to the fishing boats employed in that lucrative branch of industry. To this spirited and humane undertaking, the late lamented H. K. Grogan Morgan, Esq., was a liberal contributor, and, by his influence with the government, was mainly instrumental in obtaining its sanction, together with a pecuniary grant, for this most desirable object. John Rowe, Esq., and other gentlemen who are the owners of property in the vicinity of Kilmore, were likewise subscribers to the fund for the accomplishment of this useful project. It is with much regret I feel it incumbent on me to say, that the expectations entertained regarding this work have not been fully realised, as some of the most competent judges do not hesitate to pronounce it a failure, and state that it is far too limited in extent to be capable of accomplishing the objects contemplated by its promoters. About three miles from Kilmore, in a southerly direction, are situated the Saltee Islands, one of which is about a mile in length and half a mile in breadth, and the other about a mile in circumference. From the latter a ridge of rocks extending to the shore, and called St. Patrick's Bridge, is very dangerous to navigation; vessels, however, except in dark or hazy weather, never come in contact with this perilous obstruction. Great loss of life and property has been occasioned by ships coming too close to these islands, and efforts have been made of late years to obviate the danger arising therefrom. With this view a light-ship has been stationed west of the rocks, one

of which is called the Connymore, and the other the Conneybeg; which rocks lie west of the large island, the most westerly of the Saltees. Attempts were recently made to erect a lighthouse on the Conneybeg, which is a half-tide rock, but the efforts made for effecting this desirable object proved unavailing. The two piers which, in the course of the summer, 1856, were erected as the foundations or supporters of the lighthouse, were by the violence of the sea, in the subsequent winter, so far injured as to become bent and thrown out of the perpendicular line, and the consequence was that the undertaking, being considered impracticable, has been abandoned. The Saltee Islands are the joint property of the Honourable Mrs. Deane Morgan, widow of the Honourable Mr. Deane, eldest son of Lord Muskerry, by whom she has one son; and her sister, the Countess of Granard. The large island is in the occupation of an opulent tenant, who resides upon it; considerable portions of both islands are good arable land, and produce excellent crops of corn and potatoes. There are large quantities of rabbits upon them; while in the clefts of the steep and almost perpendicular rocks, which rise on the south and west sides of the great island, myriads of wild sea-birds build their nests and hatch their young. During the season of incubation and immediately subsequent thereto shooting in great abundance can be obtained here. Some rude caves, doubtless excavations caused by the action of the sea throughout a series of countless ages, are to be seen here, and can be entered by boats. On that part of the sea-shore nearly opposite the Saltees is Ballyteigue Castle, formerly the stronghold of the Anglo-Norman family of Whitty; but which of later years constituted the residence of a branch of the Colcloughs, and is now the seat of Edward Meadows, Esq. There is a handsome and commodious modern Catholic church in the village of Kilmore; with a school in connection with the National Board of Education, adjoining the chapel-yard. There is also a post-office in the village. The people of Kilmore and its vicinity, in general, let portions of their houses to respectable families from Wexford and elsewhere during the bathing season; and consequently their character and appearance are those of cleanliness and comfort. The Protestant church of the district is situated in the adjoining parish of Kilturk. The lands in this part of the county are rich and fertile, and, manured as they are with the rank seaweed, produce luxuriant and abundant crops. Ballycross, the seat of John Rowe, Esq., a very fine residence, is situated in this neighbourhood. The mansion, a large square building of comparatively recent erection and ample proportions, is surrounded and embellished with ornamental pleasure-grounds, enriched with fine plantations. Mr. Rowe has conferred substantial advantages on this locality by reclaiming the submerged lands of Ballyteigue; whereby he has added 1,800 acres to the arable and pasture land of the district. The neighbouring village of Bridgetown, a small and comfortable place, derives its name from a handsome and spacious bridge

which crosses the river that intersects the town. Near the bank of the river, about a quarter of a mile from the village, is the ruin of an ancient castle, in the bawn of which has been erected a modern house, at present in the occupation of an opulent farmer. There is a mill worked on the river at a short distance from the village; there are also a dispensary and post-office at this pretty little place. The Protestant church of the parish, a new and handsome edifice of moderate dimensions, is situated in the popular burial-ground of the district, in the adjoining village of Mulrankin; and in its neighbourhood is the very nice residence of the rector. The Roman Catholic church of this part of the union or liberty of Kilmore is also situated at the village of Mulrankin; and with the neat residence of the officiating priest, and the handsome National School, constitutes a remarkably interesting feature.

Proceeding in a westerly direction from this place, the tourist will soon arrive at Duncormuck, a village situated on a small river or stream that flows into what is called the Lough of Duncormuck. At the small harbour formed in this lough, to which vessels of small size obtain access, a limited trade is carried on with the opposite coast of Wales. Limestone quarries are somewhat extensively worked here, as well as at Rathyark, in the neighbourhood of Mulrankin, and their produce generally used as manure. The Protestant church of this parish is a comparatively modern edifice, which was erected on the site of the former church; in its vicinity is situated the handsome residence of the rector. The ancient castle of this place, which stood upon a handsome semicircular area, high above the bank of the western side of the river, and was a fine specimen of Anglo-Norman architecture, fell, quite unexpectedly, at the hour of noon on a Sunday about a dozen years since. We are not informed by whom this ancient defensive building was erected, but we know that the surrounding lands were formerly in the tenure of the Anglo-Norman family of Meyler. That this family was powerfully connected and of high standing may be inferred from the circumstance of Fitz-Henry, one of the early Anglo-Norman adventurers, having had for his first name that of Meyler. This nobleman, who rendered himself so remarkable for the harshness and severity of his exploits against the Irish, was also a descendant of the beautiful Nesta, his father being her eldest son Henry, and the issue of her early connection with King Henry I. From his relationship with the two distinguished Anglo-Norman leaders, Maurice Fitz-Gerald and Robert Fitz-Stephen, who were, as we have seen, his half uncles, an extensive tract of land was granted to him by Earl Strongbow, which comprised the district of Carbery, at present a barony in the county of Kildare. Hugh de Lacy, to whose niece he was married, also conferred on him extensive lands in Meath.

We find that when Raymond le Gros retired from this country, owing to Strongbow refusing to give him the hand of his sister in

marriage, he was accompanied by his friend and relative, one of the Meylers, to Wales; and on his being invited to return by the same nobleman, who acceded to his proposal regarding his marriage with the Lady Basilia, he was attended by his cousin Meyler to Ireland.

We find that Meyler Fitz-Henry was appointed to the high office of Lord-Justice of Ireland in the year 1198. A monastery was founded by him at Conal, a village on the river Liffey, in the county of Kildare, where, on his death, which took place in 1220, he was interred. Mention is made in the "Annals of the Four Masters" of important events, in which members of this family were prominent actors. Amongst others, it is stated that Meyler, the son of Meyler, took possession of Limerick by force in 1205; and also that a war broke out between Meyler and Marshal in 1207; and subsequently between Meyler and Hugh de Lacy, in the latter of which the whole of Meyler's people were dispersed and ruined, and himself banished from the country. From the same authority we find that in a conflict which took place between the English and Hugh O'Neil, at Clones, Meyler, the son of Robert, was slain. It is also stated that Donnell O'Melaghlin was slain, while engaged in a predatory excursion, by Meyler's people. Although we have no precise data whereby we are enabled to trace the direct line of descent of the Meylers and Fitz-Henrys of our county from the powerful Anglo-Norman adventurers, we have ample grounds for supposing that they are of the same stock, as we know that for centuries back they have held extensive property in the county, and were connected in marriage with many of its ancient and opulent proprietors. Having recently had an opportunity of making reference to an Inquisition taken at Wexford, in the year 1582, on Patrick Meyler, of Duncormuck, Esq., who died on the 8th of February, 1572, I found that his eldest son, Walter, having died before himself, he was succeeded by his son and heir, Nicholas, who married the daughter of Sir Edward Fitz-Harris, Bart., and died on the 26th of July, 1583. The eldest son of the latter gentleman having died during his lifetime, his second son and heir, Nicholas Meyler, of Shelbegan, became his successor, and married Miss Keating. His lands of Duncormuck were forfeited in 1641. His grandson, Walter Meyler, of Mullinderry, Esq., who married Jane, daughter of a gentleman named Cheevers, of Macetown, county of Meath, succeeded him, and had issue a son and heir, Thomas Meyler, of Gurtiminogue, Esq., who married Miss Harper, of Ballinglee, county of Wexford. To him succeeded Walter Meyler, of Gurtiminogue, Esq., who married Mary, daughter of Philip Devereux, of Marshalstown, county of Wexford, who had issue, amongst others, Anthony Meyler, of Gurtiminogue, Esq., who married the daughter of Thomas Codd, of Ralanan, in this county, and died in 1790, leaving issue, including Thomas Meyler, of Tinnacurra, county of Wexford, Esq., who married Anne, daughter of George Synnot, of Ballinaclash, in the same county, whose son, George Meyler, of Dun-

drum House, county of Dublin, Esquire, is the representative of this ancient branch of the family of Meyler.

As a further proof of the rank and standing of the Meylers of this part of the county, we find, by reference to the records of the Court of Chancery in Ireland, that the above-mentioned Patrick Meyler, of Duncormuck, in the county of Wexford, granted and confirmed to Robert Roche, of Newcastle, the manor and advowson of Ardcronan, and the ferry of Carrick, the lands of Ballytarsane, and other lands in the county of Wexford. "To hold to the said Robert and the heirs male of his body, remainder to John, son of Alexander Roche, and his heirs male; with remainder to Henry, son of Alexander."* The equally ancient branch of the family of Fitz-Henry in this county was represented by the late Colonel Fitz-Henry, of Boro Hill, near Castleboro, in the county of Wexford, who died without male issue.

Here we find unquestionable evidence of the connection by marriage of the Meylers with several of those which, according to the historian MacGeoghegan, were long considered among the good families of the county. This historian mentions the names of the following, viz.: the Devereuxs, Sinnotts, Staffords, Cheevers, Furlongs, Fitz-Harrises, Mastersons, Hores, and Coddes. The first of these, the Devereuxs, are of the same origin as the Devereuxs of England, known as the Earls of Essex, being descended from a distinguished and celebrated nobleman, Count D'Evereux, in Normandy. A member of this family, Lieutenant-General Devereux, who greatly distinguished himself, in conjunction with the renowned Bolivar, in establishing the independence of portions of South America, died a short time since at 47, Hertford Street, London, at the advanced age of eighty-two years. Many of the inhabitants of Wexford remember to have seen him within the last forty years in the town and county, when he was engaged in raising volunteers for the British Legion, which, under his command, assisted in conquering the independence of the South American Republics. A brief memoir of this distinguished soldier appeared in one of the London journals subsequent to his decease, from which, for the information of my readers, I make the following extract:—

"Born in 1778, he represented one of the oldest and most indisputable Norman families in these islands. This branch, the oldest of the D'Evereuxs, had been settled for many centuries upon the family estates in Wexford, when the rebellion of 1798 broke out. That movement was, far more than is generally understood, guided and promoted by the old Irish aristocracy of all races; and among those who took part in it was the subject of this notice, who at the early age of twenty, had the command of a division of the rebel army. On the failure of the rising, John D'Evereux made his submission to the government, and, through the influence of Lord Corn-

* Patent and Close Rolls, Chancery, Ireland, November 4, 1578.

wallis, the then Lord-Lieutenant, who took great interest in him from his youth, received a free pardon and remission of his forfeiture, upon the sole condition of remaining abroad for some years. This condition was complied with, and the treatment he had received caused a strong attachment to the British rule in the heart of the young rebel. This attachment was strongly manifested when the Emperor Napoleon offered to Mr. D'Evereux a general's commission in the army he was preparing for the invasion of England in the early part of the century, and suggested that, in the event of satisfactory service, the old domain of Evereux in Normandy, from which the family took its name, should be purchased for him, and that he should be created a duke of the empire. In the interview with the great Emperor, when these propositions were made,—which were peremptorily declined by the young man, who was as great an enthusiast for liberty as he was proud of his race,—D'Evereux informed Napoleon, in reply to the question whether the D'Evereuxs were not descended from the Conqueror—that, on the contrary, the Conqueror was descended from them; a spirited remark, which, as well as his conduct on that occasion generally, caused him to be sought out by Alexander Von Humboldt, with whom he was afterwards closely intimate."

His biographer goes on to say that, "at the date of his decease he was the senior Lieutenant-General of the South American Republics, and in the nominal receipt of a considerable pension from them." His biographer further states that the most ardent enthusiasm for the cause of political, social, and religious freedom was his leading characteristic, and that—like his less fortunate cousin, John D'Oylle, Earl of Kilcaven, who resided and died in the United States of America—he was ever ready to draw his sword and strike a blow to uphold it, whenever there was a necessity for doing so, with an equal willingness to stake his life and fortune on the issue. Of the virtue and worth of the descendants of this ancient and honoured house, the people of the town of Wexford are in a position to speak with tolerable certainty, for there are members of it known to them, whose character and conduct are such as will not cast a blemish on the bright blazon of the stainless coat of their illustrious ancestor.

Advancing still in a westerly direction, the tourist will soon arrive at Bannow, a rich and highly-cultivated district, which, projecting in a peninsular form, is bounded on the south and east by Ballyteigue Bay, and on the west by the harbour which bears its own name. Soon after the arrival of the first of the English adventurers, a town, as we are informed, was established here, which, from the reference made to it in the earliest charter granted to the town of New Ross, would appear to have been of considerable importance. In this charter, which was issued in the reign of Edward I., it is recited that Roger Bigod granted to the burgesses of that town privileges as extensive as those which were enjoyed by the inhabitants of Bannow and Kilkenny. This

Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, was married to one of the daughters of William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, so frequently referred to as the husband of Isabel, the only child of Earl Strongbow, with whom he received as a dowry the town of Ross, and the adjoining district. By a singular casualty—singular at least as regards this country—the old town of Bannow has long since disappeared, being swallowed up or buried beneath the sands, which were drifted and thrown up by some earthquake or convulsion of nature; hence it has acquired the appellation of the "Irish Herculaneum," which invests it with a character of no ordinary importance in the estimation of the antiquarian. The inequalities of the surface in the immediate vicinity of the ancient churchyard are supposed by some persons who have considered the subject, to have been occasioned by the ingulfed ruins of the town, which lie at a considerable depth. It appears that the names of some of the streets of the annihilated town are preserved, and still retained on the quit-rent books of the crown; although, as may be supposed, the sites are merely conjectural. Those thus noted are St. Mary's, St. Tullock's, and St. Benedick's Streets. The only visible remains of antiquity now extant are the ruins of the old church, which are situated on an elevation at a short distance from the shore, about 30 feet above the level of the sea. They are of considerable extent, and consist of the walls of the nave and chancel, with two attached small chapels. The ancient font which belonged to this venerable church was removed some thirty years since to the Roman Catholic church of Carrick, or Danes' Castle, where it is preserved with great care. It does not appear that there is any record of the charter of incorporation granted to this borough; although, in Inquisitions of the reigns of James I. and Charles I. reference is made to parties who held premises here under burgage tenures; but no mention is made in any of these instruments of a corporation. It is not a little extraordinary, that, notwithstanding the destruction or decay of the town, it still continued to send two representatives to the Irish parliament, until the period of the legislative union, when the sum of £15,000, awarded as a compensation for the loss of the franchise, was paid to Charles, Marquis of Ely, and Charles Tottenham, Esq., of Ballycurry, in the county of Wicklow. The harbour of Bannow is navigable for smacks of small size, and at Newtown is a quay where coal, culm, and slates, imported from Wales, are landed and stored; timber is brought to this place from Ross and Waterford, and corn is sometimes shipped here for exportation.

In the neat village of Carrick is a new and very commodious Catholic church, towards the erection of which the late Thomas Boyse, Esq., contributed with great liberality. According to the Roman Catholic divisions, Carrick belongs to the union of Ballymitty, where there is also a new and very fine church; indeed, it would be difficult to find in any rural district in Ireland two finer modern churches. The Protestant church of this union is finely situated on

the townland of Ballonghton, about half a mile from Carrick. At Grantstown, which is also half a mile from Carrick, there is a very beautiful church, which belongs to the Friars of the Augustinian order. The convent of the brethren adjoins the chapel, and being nicely situated and surrounded by ornamental plantations, it, together with the chapel, presents a remarkably pleasing appearance. In the neighbourhood of Carrick are the remains of an ancient castle, from which, no doubt, the village derives the name of Danes' Castle. It is a lofty quadrangular tower in the Anglo-Norman style of architecture; and, although called after the hardy Northmen, is supposed to have been erected by the early English settlers. The farm-houses throughout the district are of a superior description, and the system of cultivation of an equally improved character. These improvements may, in a great measure, be attributed to the interest taken by the late proprietor, Thomas Boyse, Esq., in the welfare of his tenants, whose constant residence amongst them, and the solicitude manifested by him for their moral and social comfort, could not fail to be attended with the best results. There are some handsome seats in the neighbourhood, among which may be mentioned Grange, the residence of the late greatly-lamented landlord just mentioned; and that of Mr. James, the proprietor of the celebrated Bannow School.

The tourist who will take an opportunity of riding through the baronies of Forth and Bargy, some of the most prominent features of which I have here briefly glanced at, cannot fail to be greatly struck with the homesteads and dwellings of the farmers, and the habitations of the peasantry; which for cleanliness and comfort can bear a comparison, not only with the best portions of Ireland, but even with some of the most favoured rural districts of the sister-country. The inhabitants, who are a thrifty and industrious people, are said to be the descendants of the early English settlers; they have generally intermarried with each other, and have preserved much of the sober and steady habits which those who are partial to the English peasantry claim as their general characteristics. Up to a comparatively recent period, a dialect had continued in use among them peculiar to these baronies, which, judging from the written specimens remaining of it, has been considered by some competent judges to bear a close affinity to that of the Anglo-Saxons. In the "Annals of the Four Masters" we find that those foreigners who joined the army which came over from Wales at the instance of Dermot, King of Leinster, are called, more than once, Flemings; and of these people, we are told, some colonies were allowed to establish themselves in Wales during the reigns of the first and second Henrys. From these circumstances it has been considered probable that the colonies planted in these baronies consisted of Flemings. Even to the present day, says Mr. Beaufort, whose manuscript is cited in Brewer's "Beauties of Ireland," "the port and countenance of the inhabitants often designate their origin, especially among the females, many of whom, if dressed in the garb

of the Netherlands, might be taken for veritable Dutchwomen." However this may have been when Mr. Beaufort made his observations, it does not hold good at this period; as the females of these districts are as remarkable for the symmetry of their forms as they are for their good looks in general. The baronies of Forth and Bargy have been long celebrated for the superior management of their farms. It must be admitted, however, that portions of these baronies possess a great advantage over most of the other parts of the county, in the facility with which they can obtain manure; as, besides the large quantities of sea-weed which are thrown upon the coast, limestone abounds within them, and quarries are open at Drinagh, in the barony of Forth, and at Duncormuck, in that of Bargy.

CHAPTER XVIII.

ENNISCORTHY, NEWTOWNBARRY, FERNS, AND GOREY.

Before taking his departure from the town of Wexford, I would strongly recommend the tourist to pay a visit to Eden Vale, a very beautiful valley between three or four miles from Wexford, and half a mile from Castlebridge. On arriving at the latter place, he will experience much gratification in witnessing the clean and comfortable appearance of the houses, which afford unmistakable evidence of the thrift and industry of the inhabitants. This very agreeable state of things may, in some measure, be accounted for from the circumstance of the village being blessed by the presence of a highly-respectable and enterprising merchant, who, while he is a large purchaser of grain, is also the proprietor of extensive mills, in which, as well as in the lighters that are constantly engaged in conveying his large supplies of corn to Wexford for shipment by his vessels to England and Scotland, a considerable number of hands find permanent employment. The late Patrick Breen, Esq., who departed this life about seven years since, and who has been succeeded by his son, Patrick Breen, Esq., J.P., was for more than half a century carrying on business here, and was the successor of Nicholas Dixon, Esq., a merchant of great spirit and enterprise. The presence of merchants of this class was instrumental in establishing remunerative markets for the sale of agricultural produce, and therefore it became a place of great resort for the farmers of the north section of the county, who were prohibited by a heavy toll on the Wexford Bridge from proceeding to that town to dispose of their corn and other commodities; and hence fairs, as well as markets, were established and largely attended. The inhabitants entertained great apprehensions that when the Wexford Bridge should be made free to the public the business of the village would be seriously injured. The contrary, however, appears to be the case, as after nine years' experience, during which period that bridge has been rendered toll free, a considerable quantity of the produce of the north part of the country is still disposed of at this market. It is therefore found that this village is improved, and is every year progressively improving; thus clearly demonstrating that free and unrestricted commerce can be productive of advantage on a local and limited scale, as well as upon one of national or impe-

rial extent. The Protestant church of this place is a neat modern edifice in the later English style, with handsome Gothic windows in the sides and chancel end; while above the door in the western end is a handsome circular window, and on the apex of the gable a belfry and good bell. It is situated within a spacious burial-ground surrounded with fine trees, about a dozen perches from the rectory, a very nice residence, which stands upon a portion of the richly-planted glebe. The pleasure-grounds, for their extent, are exceedingly pretty, and tastefully laid out.

The Catholic church, which has been recently rebuilt, is a commodious oblong structure in the Early English style of architecture, nearly 100 feet in length, by 36 in breadth, and its height to the wall plate 36 feet. In each extremity of the gabled front, which is entered by a handsome porch, is a nice window of two lights, with a stained-glass quatrefoil in the head of the arch. The chancel window, which is of five lights, is enriched with stained glass, pretty much in the style of the grand chancel windows of Father Roche's Churches at Wexford. There are four lancet-shaped windows in each side of the church, which, like the other windows, are decorated with label-mouldings; and the western gable surmounted by a cut stone belfry. The church is entered immediately in front of the entrance to the nice residence of Mr. Breen. This house has been recently almost rebuilt, and, with its beautiful pleasure-grounds and splendid conservatory, is exceedingly fine, and worthy of admiration. The residence of the parish priest, the Rev. Thomas Stafford, is situated about half a furlong from the church; and the school, which is under the National Board of Education, immediately adjoins the village.

Advancing from Castlebridge, and along the elevation which skirts the western bank of the river Sow, the tourist will soon arrive at the entrance to the beautiful valley that has been very appropriately designated Eden Vale, which, although on a more subdued and limited scale, greatly resembles the celebrated valleys of the county of Wicklow, known as the Dargle and the Devil's Glen. There are few places in Ireland, of the same extent, where the hand of nature has so profusely lavished its richest favours; and if the judicious appliances which it is man's province to bestow were brought to act in co-operation with such rare gifts, this, indeed, would become a truly delightful spot. Even in its present comparatively neglected state, its admirable combinations—consisting of wood in vast variety and beauty, and water in clear, calm, and occasionally turgid magnificence—constitute it a gem replete with traits of almost surpassing interest. Proceeding for about half a mile along the bank of the slightly curving river, and viewing from the bottom of the deeply embosomed glen the rich and umbrageous foliage of the trees, which clothe and ornament the sides of the precipitous banks by which it is environed, the delighted tourist will arrive at the magnificent cascade formed by the entire body of the Sow river, which in one concentrated volume falls over dense

rocks in a descent of some 50 feet. Its first downward inclination, to the point where it makes its final bound, is about 20 feet, while its ultimate fall in a vast sheet of foam is about 30 feet. In winter or rainy weather the character and appearance of this natural curiosity are grand in the extreme, and in its onward career it becomes swollen and rapid in its course; but in the summer or dry weather, although, from the falling of the entire river over the natural barrier, the cascade is still splendid, the stream, after its fall, soon becomes subdued, and flows on in comparatively peaceful tranquillity. On the north bank of the river, within a short distance of the waterfall, a neat cottage was erected many years ago, in which is a ball-room, that was wont to be appropriated to pic-nic parties resorting to the delightful vale. This romantic and highly interesting glen is part of the estate of George Le Hunte, Esq., and may be said to form a portion of his demesne, from the pleasure-grounds of which there is a communication for the convenience of his family and friends. The intervening tract which extends between Eden Vale and Ferry Carrig, a distance of about three miles, is a rich though tame bit of country, not unlike what may be very frequently seen in England; and rising as it does in an easy ascent from the estuary or bay formed by the river Slaney, which spreads before the demesnes of Artramont and Saunderscourt, displays itself to the best possible advantage.

The tourist, while in this neighbourhood, will be called on to notice the fine mansion and demesne of George Le Hunte, Esq., a seat which possesses features of unqualified richness and beauty. The mansion, a large quadrangular courtly building of long standing, is situated in the centre of the beautiful demesne; the pleasure-grounds and gardens, which are laid out with exquisite taste and skill, lying on the east. Before the southern façade, which overlooks the river Slaney, and from which can be obtained an excellent view of the harbour and the town of Wexford, extends a rich and widely-spreading lawn, which is merely divided by the ordinary high road from another finely-planted lawn, in the centre of which are the ancient cemetery and ruined church of Artramont. On a recent visit to this churchyard, I was again struck with the constant and affectionate solicitude which still continues to be evinced by the amiable proprietor of the estate for the protection and preservation of the grave of his infant daughter. As I had seen it seven years before, it was covered with fresh and beauteous flowers; while the surrounding space, about 15 feet by 12, which is enclosed by a neat paling, and intended for a family vault, was closely shaven, and presented a rich verdant aspect. Such an instance of parental affection on the part of a leading proprietor must have a tendency to uphold and perpetuate the old and time-honoured custom which is still sedulously cherished by the kind-hearted and unsophisticated people of the country—that of dressing and decorating with flowers the graves of their deceased friends. Another tenant has recently taken possession of a portion of this

verdant space, the remains of the amiable Sir Francis Le Hunte having been deposited there in the summer of 1859. This humane and pure philanthropist was an officer in the Royal Navy, and by his courage and intrepidity won the approbation of his sovereign and his country, and had the honour of knighthood conferred upon him. Though the early part of his life was passed in the school of war, no man better understood, or more faithfully reduced to practice, the genuine principles of charity and peace.

In the centre of the churchyard are the remains of an old church, which, from its rude construction, its limited dimensions, and its scant and slit windows, must be of considerable antiquity. This very ancient ruin is about 25 feet in length, by 15 in breadth. A few perches south of the ruined church and churchyard, and at a short distance from the remains of an ancient defensive castle, which still, in good preservation, stands near the margin of the Slaney, is a fine spring well, which was dedicated to St. Bridget, and still called after her, St. Bridget's Well. It has from time immemorial been considered a venerable object, and persons affected with acute headache are said to experience an alleviation of their pain by bathing their temples in its clear and cooling waters.

In one of my last visits to this neighbourhood my attention was directed to a curious remnant of antiquity, which is a carved figure in oak, or some other dark and hard wood, about 28 or 30 inches in height, said to be found about a century ago in a small valley on the townland of Ballynaleck, immediately adjoining the handsome cottage in which the late-lamented Sir Francis Le Hunte resided. According to tradition, a monastery was founded at this place by St. Maelruain, who was Bishop of Tallaght, near Dublin, and died in the year 787. It is in the possession of David Curran, a small farmer, who lives on the Artramont estate, who considers it to be an image of the saint who erected the monastery, or to whom it was dedicated; and has been preserved by him with reverence and care. When found, as we are told, in a well, by persons who were digging for money beneath a portion of the ruins of the monastery, it is said to have been in a state of comparative preservation, and was partly covered with gilding. At present, although the head, face, mitre, and right hand, are in tolerable preservation, the lower part of the body and the legs are greatly worn, and present mere outlines of their original shape. The appearance of this figure, as well as the material of which it is composed, reminded me forcibly of the account given by the historian Moore, of the introduction of shaped idols, which before the Christian era superseded the adoration of Crom-Cruach, the earliest form of superstition, which confined its worship to rude erect stones. This celebrated writer says, "To the same ritual belonged also those images of which some fragments have been found in Ireland, described as being of black wood carved and plated with thin gold, and the chased work on them appearing in lines radiating from the centre, as is usual in

images of the sun." Were it not for the mitre, the unmistakable emblem of Christianity, this figure might very well be supposed to belong to the category here mentioned. On the eve of the anniversary of the saint whom it was supposed to represent, or of the day upon which it was found, the people at whose house it is kept, and where it has remained ever since it was found, were wont to bedeck it with garlands of flowers, and still look upon it as an object calculated to bring a blessing on their house. As might naturally be expected, some curious legends are told regarding it, which, in all probability, are such as are not unfrequently to be found emanating from the excitable fancy of an imaginative people. Amongst others, it has been stated that a young man, a native of the county of Carlow, who was affected with paralysis, which deprived him of the use of his limbs, dreamt that at a certain place in this neighbourhood, which his dream enabled him to particularise, there was a covered well, in the waters of which if he could bathe his limbs he would recover the use of them. So strangely did this dream impress itself on his imagination, that his friends were induced to bring him down to this part of the county; when, after a considerable time spent in searching for the indicated spot, they discovered the cluster of shrubs or underwood, which, agreeably to the young man's account, marked its locality; and having turned up the earth, found the much-desired spring, in which, after the invalid had bathed, he completely recovered the use of his limbs, threw away his crutches, and walked home with his delighted friends to his residence in the adjoining county. It is also stated that repeated attempts were made to remove this relic out of the parish, but they invariably failed. Among these it is said that the person by whom it was found, who occupied the house wherein it is still kept, and to whom the grandfather of David Curran, the present occupant, was the successor, on removing to the barony of Forth, endeavoured to take this highly-valued relic with him. But whenever he entered the boat to cross the Slaney, there being at that time no bridge over the river, he was met with such storms and bad weather, that he could not succeed in accomplishing his object. He also, it is alleged, endeavoured to effect his desire by going round by Enniscorthy; but on arriving at the bridge of Ballinaslaney, no efforts could induce the horse that drew the luggage among which it was placed to cross the bridge; he therefore reluctantly abandoned all further attempts to remove it. Whether this remnant of antiquity be of Pagan or Christian origin, it is much to be regretted that it did not fall into other hands than those of the simple and unsophisticated people, whose repeated dressings and floral decorations must have occasioned it more or less deterioration. Arriving at the village of Crossabeg, the inhabitants of which are decorous and orderly in their conduct, and the appearance of their houses clean and comfortable, the visitor will very soon learn the true character of Mr. Le Hunte, the owner of the property on which it is situated, whose generous and unceasing

efforts to improve the condition of his tenantry by affording them employment, and such other advantages as good advice and good example can confer, are freely acknowledged by a grateful and attached people. The Catholic church of this place, which is situated within a handsome area, recently converted to a cemetery, surrounded with nice trees, is a plain cruciform edifice of long standing; but being kept in excellent repair, it presents a fresh and prepossessing appearance. The residence of the parish priest, a very neat cottage, is nicely situated on an elevation at a short distance from the church and the adjoining school, which is in connection with the National Board of Education. There are some handsome seats in this neighbourhood, including St. Edmund's, which is also a part of the estate of George Le Hunte, Esq.; Mount Anna, part of the property purchased by Alderman Greene from the Earl of Arran; and Sion, the fine residence of Francis Leigh, Esq., which is a remarkably beautiful place.

The next and most important feature which presents itself in this vicinity is Saunderscourt, which, up to a recent period, was the property and residence of the Earl of Arran, who, on his accession to the title and estates of his noble family, expended large sums in planting and ornamenting the demesne, and in altering and enlarging the mansion. It is at present the residence of Mrs. Giles, the widow of the late Arthur Maguire Giles, Esq., who, about eight years since, purchased it of the noble earl, and up to the period of his decease continued to reside upon it. The magnificent demesne, which may be said to extend from the village of Crossabeg to Ferry Carrig, is bounded on the south and east by the river Slaney, and contains within this boundary and the demesne wall about 1,000 acres. Plantations, comprising many acres, are to be seen on various parts of the beautiful grounds; while rich and handsome clusters, and, in some instances, single trees, give a pleasing variety to the bright and extensive lawns. The mansion, a fine courtly building of considerable extent, displays its rich and handsome façade, consisting of a centre and characteristic wings, to the south-west. From the neat porch, which stands before the centre and forms the grand entrance, the town of Wexford, with its public buildings, and the quay and harbour, with their various vessels and small craft, come fully under observation; while the clear waters of the gentle Slaney, spreading into a broad expanse, present the appearance of a beauteous lake, in which is mirrored the umbrageous foliage that stretches along its margin. About a furlong west of the mansion, in the centre of an ancient churchyard, are the ruins of a small church, the roofless walls of which are still entire. This edifice was of the plainest character, and presents nothing worthy of particular notice, save the doorway, which, with its stone jambs and rounded arch, is of great antiquity, and in the ruder Norman style. This fine specimen of the antique in architecture formerly belonged to the ancient church dedicated to

St. David, which stood within the old churchyard near the bridge of Ballinaslaney. At Saunderscourt, as well as at Artramont, there is a fine spring, called St. Patrick's Well, which is situated on that portion of the lawn which adjoins the ancient churchyard. Should leisure permit, the tourist, desirous of extending his sphere of observation, can make a very convenient circuit by proceeding from Crossabeg to Ballinkeele and Ballymurne. Advancing by this route through a very rich and well-cultivated country, he will soon arrive at the old churchyard of Kilmallock, a very popular burial-ground, in which are some slight remains of an ancient church, consisting of portions of the foundation and a part of the northern side wall, which is about a foot or more above the surrounding surface, and out of which grows a large ash tree, and a couple of smaller ones of the same kind. At a short distance west of the ruined fane is the vault of the Hays of Ballinkeele, an old and honoured family; and, at an equally short distance from it on the south, that of the ancient family of Peare, which is covered by a large tomb. The handsome residence of the representative of this old family, H. Peare, Esq., called Kilmallock House, is situated near the cemetery, the nice pleasure grounds, and well-laid-out parterre, extending to its eastern boundary.

Soon after passing this place the tourist will arrive at Ballymurne, a neat, small village, where, upon an elevation centrally situated, stands the handsome Roman Catholic church, which is of oblong form, somewhat in the style of the new church of Castlebridge, being about 70 feet in length and 30 feet in breadth. It is entered by a spacious doorway, over which is a capacious head-light; while above the door is a large plain Gothic window of a single mullion, that lights the gallery, which extends considerably, and is supported in the front by two columns of the Doric order. There are four coupled lancet-shaped windows, separated by a single mullion, in each of its sides, the heads of which are ornamented internally with label-mouldings. The floor of the church is laid with fine flags, and the sanctuary with rich granite. The grand altar, which was presented to the church by Miss Maher, sister to the recently deceased and greatly lamented proprietor, John Maher, Esq., D.L., is very fine. A rich column of the Corinthian order rises on each of its sides, and supports a light entablature and pediment. In the tympanum of the pediment is a figure of the dove surrounded by a rich glory. The altar table is of fine statuary marble, with side panels of the beautiful green or Connemara kind, the base being of the latter rich material. In the centre of the front of the altar-table is a splendidly sculptured figure of a dead Christ, his Blessed Mother leaning over him and holding his wrist in her right hand. The beautiful tabernacle is likewise of the fine green or Galway marble, with an elegant Ionic column of a different colour, but equally rich, on each angle, supporting an entablature, which is continued round the four sides, and surmounted in front by a nice pediment, the tympanum of which, as well as the

rich frieze of the entablature, is also of green marble. An elegant statue of the Virgin and Child stands upon the tabernacle of the Blessed Virgin's altar, the rear of which is draped with black velvet. The other side altar is fitted up in the same style; a figure of St. Joseph, to whom the church is dedicated, surmounting the handsome tabernacle. The residence of the officiating curate, a neat house of two stories, is attached to the western end of the church, and the school, which is in connection with the National Board of Education, is situated at a short distance from it.

Adjoining the road which leads from Crossabeg to this place is a fine spring, called Toberahilleen, or Ellen's well, to which pilgrimages were wont to be made. The demesne of Ballinkeele, formerly the property and residence of the old family of Hay, immediately adjoins the village; it is of considerable extent, and was greatly enriched and beautified by its late highly-gifted owner, who, besides building the mansion, now a splendid modern house, expended large sums on drainage and other important works. On approaching the fine mansion by the grand or carriage entrance, in front of which is the nice gate-lodge, the visitor becomes struck with the richness and beauty of the plantations, which are laid out with the greatest judgment and skill; while the large and spreading trees, which are of the greatest variety and of the finest growth and vigour, excite his warmest admiration. On a fine sloping elevation on that part of the demesne which is situated at some distance north-east of the mansion, is the ruin of an ancient castle, which, being richly coated with ivy, presents a remarkable and picturesque appearance. The salutary system recently recommended for the extirpation of weeds has been adopted in all its integrity on this property, for not only are the corn-fields and potato grounds uncontaminated by their presence, but even the roadside hedges and fences are carefully preserved from their admixture and impurity. Nor has this excellent example been lost sight of by the farmers of the district, as when I paid my visit to this locality, in the middle of the month of July, 1860, the whole face of the country presented such an appearance as might bear a comparison with some of the best portions of the sister country, upon which, as we all know, the greatest care is bestowed.

Passing onward from Ballinkeele, the delighted traveller will soon arrive at Glenbryan, a small village situated in the nice glen from which it takes its name. The most important feature in this place is the Roman Catholic church, which is situated in the handsome churchyard of the village, and in the lowest part of the valley, on the margin of a clear and gently flowing stream, whose tranquil murmur in the summer season has an exceedingly pleasing effect upon the ear of the visitor, as it fills up the intervening rests of the industrious hammer of the village smith in his useful daily toil. Before the centre of the large curving entrance to the church and churchyard stands an uncommonly beautiful and widely-spreading tree, which, in

any situation would be considered a very interesting feature, but which in this place, where it furnishes and ornaments the ample space, must be considered a most desirable acquisition. On the north side of the curving area that forms the entrance stands the National school-house of the district. The church, which was erected in 1783, is a plain edifice of cruciform construction, with a gallery in each transept as well as in the end of the nave, and, although of limited extent, is thus rendered capable of accommodating a tolerably large congregation. The house of the resident clergyman, the Rev. Thomas Sheridan, curate to the parish priest of Oylgate, in whose liberty Glenbryan is situate, stands on a handsome eminence on the north-west of the chapel and cemetery.

The village of Oylgate, situated about midway between the towns of Wexford and Enniscorthy, is at present showing unmistakable evidence of the severity of the pressure which was superinduced by the repeated failure of the people's crop. Let us hope that a place so centrally situated between the county town and the rising town of Enniscorthy, will soon, like the county in general, assume its wonted aspect of comfort and cheerfulness. The Catholic church, an edifice of long standing and cruciform shape, has within the last year been replaced by a new building more in conformity with the spirit of the age, and more in keeping with the nice residence of the parish priest, the Rev. Thomas Busher, than which there is no Manse House in any rural district in the diocese more commodious and comfortable. The new church has been modelled after the design of that recently erected at Castlebridge, and certainly no better model could be adopted, nor one combining, with neatness and simplicity, a greater degree of comfort and convenience for the congregation of the district. The site is immediately in the rear of the old church, which has been entirely removed; and near it is the school, which is in connection with the National Board of Education, which is largely attended, and admirably conducted by the clever and experienced master, whose abilities are well known and duly appreciated by those who have been acting as visitors and inspectors under the parent establishment in Dublin.

By far the greatest treat that can be obtained in the vicinity of Wexford, and which no intelligent traveller who visits the town should lose an opportunity of enjoying, is the passage by water from Wexford to Enniscorthy. Starting from the former town by a good row-boat, he may carry the flow of the tide with him for the entire distance; and as he passes beneath the old and condemned bridge of Wexford, and subsequently under the new one, which is nearly half a mile higher up the river, he will soon find himself amid scenes which, though they may be equalled by many of the same description that are to be seen in other parts of Ireland, can be exceeded by very few indeed. In some of its charming characteristics, the river upon which he finds himself afloat cannot be surpassed by any other river

in this country or elsewhere, namely, its pellucid clearness and unrivalled tranquillity. Losing sight of the old town, he will find himself in the immediate vicinity of Artramont and Saunderscourt, already alluded to, which, from their varied richness and picturesque loveliness, he will feel much regret in being so soon destined to leave behind. He now draws near to the bridge of Ferry Carrig, with its old guardian tower on the right, and the new and more lofty circular fabric on the left—the sides of the precipices, on parts of which they stand, in the full freshness of their verdant summer dress, appearing to the best possible advantage. The first of these, the ancient tower, that stands upon the summit of a rock, which is merely detached by a deep chasm or artificial cut from the adjoining lofty range, presents a peculiarly striking and venerable appearance, the apex of the rock being barely sufficient to form its base. Thus perched above the handsome wooden bridge which forms the public thoroughfare at the foot of its rocky foundation, and beneath which the Slaney rushes with more than its otherwise gentle flow—with its sombre shadow falling on the concentrated waters of the now turgid stream—its lone and hoary characteristics appear to derive new phases from their contrast with the light and comparatively frail structure which spans the intervening space between the neighbouring precipitous heights.

The interest which the situation and appearance of this ancient stronghold excite in the mind of the intelligent traveller is considerably enhanced by the recollection that it was the first stone structure raised by the English in this country. This romantically-placed defensive tower was erected by Robert Fitz-Stephen, immediately after his arrival in this country, in the year 1169.

The amateur or artist who may be disposed to employ his pencil in depicting the striking and varied beauties of this renowned locality will now find another highly-important adjunct, which, whether looked upon as an object suggestive of sympathy for the loss of the young and the brave, whose memory it has been erected to commemorate, and the recollection of whose gallant and heroic deeds it is so well calculated to perpetuate, or, as a faithful representation of the old pillar temples of the country, must, in a pictorial point of view, be considered of the most unquestionable advantage to those who delight in sketching scenes of natural and artificial beauty. The object thus alluded to is the monument recently erected by the relatives, friends, and admirers of the brave spirits of our county who fell in defence of their Queen and country in the terrible but successful Crimean campaign. This testimonial, the first stone of which was laid by the highly esteemed and exceedingly popular Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, his Excellency the Earl of Carlisle, was finished in the month of July, 1858. It is of plain character, being constructed of the poor materials raised on a part of the height upon which it stands; still, from its figure, which may be considered a *fac-simile* of the ancient round towers of Ireland, and the thickness of its walls, it is likely to endure for ages; while,

from its elevated position, it can be seen from a considerable distance; and, as a monument, will serve to convey to posterity the unquestionable fact that the men of Wexford of the present day have not degenerated from the courage and bravery of their ancestors. The internal diameter is 14 feet 6 inches, and its height, to the apex of its conical roof, 85 feet. Like many of the structures of which it is so perfect a specimen, the entrance is about 9 feet from the ground, up to which height the interior is quite solid. It is lighted at various distances by slits, and shows at its summit only one of the apertures which are the general characteristics of its prototypes or models, one of which faces each of the cardinal points. Projecting corbels have been placed in the interior of the walls, so as to serve as supports for the floors, which may at any time be introduced, and approached by ladders. It occupies the centre of the site of the important castle supposed to have been erected also by Fitz-Stephen, upon an eminence on the opposite or western side of the river; its base being nearly on a line with the rock-perched tower on the eastern side, which, throughout the vicissitudes of nearly 700 years, has continued to stand as an unmistakable memento of Anglo-Norman energy and perseverance. From this commanding elevation can be obtained excellent views of the Slaney—which here presents the appearance of a noble river—and of the fine park and woodland scenery by which it is environed; with the bright village of Castlebridge, and the thickly-wooded grounds, ruined mansion, and ancient tower of Ballytramon, in the distance. The last-mentioned fragment of what was once a very important castle is of circular form, and in excellent preservation. It is somewhat in the style of the celebrated round towers so peculiar to this country, and is about 60 feet in height from the base to the embattled summit. The castle, of which this interesting remnant formed one of the flanking towers that guarded the entrance, is said to have been erected by the ancient family of Esmonde, or, as some say, by that of Sinnott.

In the vicinity of the Crimean heroes' monument is situated Belmont House, the recent abode of the Countess-Dowager of Donoughmore, upon which her ladyship and the late earl expended large sums of money. The mansion, which may be said to have been entirely rebuilt, is in the Elizabethan style of architecture, and shows its grand façade to the river, which, from some of the windows, presents the appearance of an extensive and beautiful lake; while from others it appears in its real and prolonged character, and is an object to be looked upon with pride and admiration. On the death of the countess and her son, the Honourable Mr. Hutchinson, who fell in the Crimean campaign, this estate reverted back to the present Earl of Donoughmore. The fine mansion and demesne are now in the possession of Lieutenant-Colonel Villars Latouche Hatton, an extensive proprietor of this county, of which his late lamented and gallant father, Admiral Hatton, was for some years the faithful representative in parliament.

This excellent gentleman, although still a young man, fully understands his position; and by his constant attendance at the Magistrates' Court of Petty Sessions, and at the meetings of the Board of Guardians of the union workhouse, furnishes unmistakable evidence of the sense he entertains of the responsibility that wealth and high station impose upon their possessors. The large establishment maintained by him, and the consequent employment he affords to tradesmen and others, must cause the residence of such a gentleman to be felt as a blessing to the neighbourhood.

The secluded and venerable churchyard of Carrig adjoins the lands of Belmont, and is situated near the mouth of a romantic and rocky defile, through which rushes a mountain stream that in winter or rainy weather becomes swollen and impetuous in its course. In the centre of the still popular burial-ground, which is bordered with stately trees of long standing and fine growth, are the remains of an old church, of limited dimensions, whose crumbling walls are preserved from utter prostration by the aid of the friendly and entwining ivy by which they are enveloped. This small fane is evidently of great antiquity, and must have been a long time in ruins, as trees of comparatively large size grow within the walls. In the choir, about a foot from the eastern gable, are two very fine hawthorns, one on each side of what was the chancel window. Inclining towards each other, they form a natural arch, which corresponds in height with the broken arch of this part of the ruin. In the centre of the ruined temple, which is about 45 feet in length by 18 in breadth, is an ancient font about 15 inches in diameter. The situation of this churchyard renders it an appropriate resting-place for the dead, as, from its seclusion, it is rarely visited, save by those who, like the philosophic Hervey, delight to meditate among the tombs; and consequently its gloomy silence is seldom broken except by the murmur of the adjoining river, or the occasional screaming of the bird of night. In the vicinity of this ancient churchyard there is also a spring called St. Nicholas's Well.

Passing beneath the bridge of Ferry Carrig, and clearing the rocky gorge of the deep, and, at this point, circumscribed river, the clear stream assumes its wonted placidity and spreads into an expanse of a charming lake-like character, which discloses scenes of great variety and beauty; in which are included Barntown Cottage, with its adjoining ancient and hoary castle, a stately ruin, and its rich and vigorous plantations; and also a considerable portion of the sterile mountain of Forth, by which it is sheltered on the south and west. From this part of the river Belmont House appears to the greatest advantage, the peaked angles and projecting windows of its highly-decorated front, and its curving avenue, being alike open to view. Proceeding up the silvery river, the richly-planted and sloping verdant lawns of Killowen on the right, and Cullentra Cottage, the handsome residence of Simon Little, Esq., on the left, together with Barntown House, a large mansion erected some years ago by the late Major

Perceval, appear to great advantage, and command the attention of the gratified visitor. Still advancing up the placid stream, the boat will soon arrive at the wood of Ardcandrisk, which rises from the verge of the gently flowing river to the summit of the precipitous height, where, upon a beauteous velvet lawn, stands the elegant villa of the Honourable Mrs. Deane Morgan, from which enlarged views of a truly magnificent description can be obtained. From this commanding elevation may be traced for miles the progress of the winding river, as it sparkles in the bright glow of the summer's sun, and bears upon its glossy bosom the swiftly propelled barge freighted with youth and beauty; while the various seats that stud and ornament its banks elicit feelings of unmingled admiration. In the background the mountain ranges of Blackstairs and Mount Leinster—their blue summits standing out in bold relief, and contrasting finely with the lighter azure of the vaulted and cloudless sky—present features of the greatest sublimity and give a finish and completeness to such a picture as some of our most celebrated landscape painters might deem an appropriate subject for the exercise of their artistic pencils. Upon a portion of the demesne, at some distance south of the unique and elegant villa, are the remains of the old church of Ardcandrisk which, in a state of almost utter ruin, stand in the centre of the ancient burial-ground. This church and the fine well, a highly venerated spring, which is situated south and east of the mansion, were dedicated to St. Eusebius. A few perches south of the old churchyard is one of the ancient raths so common to this country, which, being covered with plantations, presents a handsome appearance. At some distance west of this ancient earthwork is the spot where the late lamented and highly popular John Colclough, Esq. fell in a fatal duel with William Congreve Alcock, Esq., of Wilton Castle. This melancholy occurrence grew out of a contested election in the month of May, 1807, in which both gentlemen were candidates. The celebrated and greatly gifted Richard Brinsley Sheridan was Mr. Colclough's colleague on this occasion. A handsome and flourishing oak-tree marks the spot where the idolised John Colclough, who was a near relative of the Morgan family, fell. Tykillen House, a fine courtly mansion, the seat of Charles A. Walker, Esq., V.L., is enviably situated on the opposite or eastern side of the river, to the margin of which the fine extensive lawn slopes in a gradual descent. This very handsome seat was formerly the property of the Freke family, from whose representative it was purchased some years since by its present proprietor. On a rich and verdant mount that rises somewhat precipitously above the western bank of the river, is situated the neat lodge erected some thirteen years ago by Herbert F. Hore, Esq., and where, up to a comparatively recent period, he continued to reside. From the lawn, immediately in front of the entrance, an ample prospect is open to the visitor, embracing within it the beauteous river, the richly-planted grounds, and various seats that skirt its banks,

including Ballyharran Cottage, the charming residence of James Howlin, Esq., Jun. Healthfield, the delightful seat of Captain David Beatty, next presents itself, and possesses attractions of no common order for the lovers of the picturesque and beautiful. It immediately adjoins the lands of Carrigmannon, and was originally a part of that estate. Newtown Cottage, the nice residence of John Edward Redmond, Esq., M.P., is finely situated on the opposite side of the river, and is really a charming seat. The grounds and splendid flower-garden, which are uncommonly beautiful, are open to the public at all times. From the windows of the cottage, which is in the style of an elegant Italian villa, as well as from parts of the demesne, Carrigmannon and Healthfield are seen to much advantage. Thus viewed, they appear to form portions of the grounds which appertain to the cottage itself, the river that divides them being entirely lost sight of. With all these unquestionable advantages, however, the old island of Beg-Erin appears at present to possess superior attractions for its energetic owner; as when his onerous public duties permit him to repose in the pleasing enjoyments of home, he makes his comparatively plain but still elegant cottage on the saintly isle his general place of residence. This predilection may seem strange to many persons, but to those who by experience are rendered familiar with the workings of the human heart, and of the impulses by which its feelings are governed, such partiality must appear perfectly natural. It is an admitted axiom, that the man who has caused two blades of grass to spring up where but one had previously grown is a benefactor to the human family. What then must be the feelings of him who can conscientiously entertain the belief, that he himself has been mainly instrumental in converting a submerged area of 2,500 acres into valuable arable and pasture land; which, independent of the large breadth appropriated to the growth of corn in the present year (1861), affords at the moment when these observations are being penned (the latter end of September of the same year) luxuriant pasturage for 700 head of black cattle and 1000 sheep? Perhaps, like the youthful artist who, after years of study, has succeeded in producing a perfect copy from a model of Canova or our own Hogan,—or like him who by the judicious application of his pencil has executed a faithful copy of some of the pictures of Correggio or Raphael,—he may love to gaze upon the production of his utilitarian labours, and, in thought elate, contemplate a further extension of them. And although the materials upon which he had to operate were not of alabaster marble, but, on the contrary, the dank alluvial mudbanks, and his canvas the widely-spreading dark green slime, his implements were the never-failing hands and arms of his willing and industrious fellow-countrymen, by whose combined efforts his productions, if not so poetic, have at least been rendered as substantial, and may one day become, in the truest sense of the term, quite as ornamental as the finest creations of genius.

Carrigmannon, formerly the property and residence of the ancient family of Devereux, whose representatives can trace their descent from the ancestor of Robert Devereux, the celebrated but unfortunate Earl of Essex, is a fine old place, enviably situated on the western bank of the Slaney. The timber on the demesne is of great age and magnitude, and the land of the greatest richness and fertility. The old proprietors have ceased to have any connection with this fine property. It was some time since sold under the Incumbered Estates Commission; when the enterprising John Edward Redmond, Esq., became the purchaser. At this place, on the 10th of August, the Feast of St. Laurence, a patron was wont to be held, and large numbers were in the habit of congregating there. On such occasions it was usual for persons labouring under sore eyes, pains, or swellings in the limbs, and other real or fancied infirmities, to bathe in a fine spring called St. Laurence's Well, which is situated in this vicinity. But whatever the advantages which may have been derived from ablutions in this holy well, they are at present laid aside; for owing to the copious libations of whisky consumed at these gatherings, the parish priest, the Very Rev. Dean Murphy, V.G., prohibited such meetings, and although various attempts have been made to revive them, his vigilance and determination have completely baffled them all. The neat Protestant church of Killurin, and the handsome residence of the vicar, the Rev. John Booker, are situated on a part of the Carrigmannon estate. They stand upon a finely-wooded eminence north of the old demesne, and appear to the greatest advantage when viewed from the river, as the wood slopes down even to the water's edge. Another crowning feature in this neighbourhood is the new and beautiful bridge of three arches, which spans the ravine, about 80 feet in depth, that divides the church from the grounds of Carrigmannon. The Roman Catholic church of this district, and the nice residence of the Rev. Denis Foley, curate to the Very Rev. Dean Murphy, are situated at Bolabaum, about a mile from the church of Killurin. The new and handsome bridge of the Deeps crosses the Slaney at the north-western extremity of the richly-wooded elevation, on which, within the ancient churchyard, is situated the last-mentioned church. It is a very neat structure, and affords great advantages to the people on both sides of the river, as well as to the public in general.

Proceeding up the river from this bridge, and passing by Cornwall, so called from a colony from that part of England having settled there many years ago, the tourist will obtain a full view of the ancient castle of the Deeps, which stands near the margin of the spreading river, and exhibits in its style and general outline evidence of its early importance. We are informed that this castle was granted by Cromwell to one of his standard-bearers, named Randal; and also that a member of this family entertained James II. here, when on his way to Waterford river, where he took shipping for France immediately after the battle of the Boyne.

The tourist will next arrive at Kyle, at this time the residence of Frederick Solly Flood, Esq., and long rendered familiar to the respectable inhabitants of the town of Wexford, from being the cherished abode, as it was the property, of the highly-esteemed and deservedly popular William Harvey, Esq., whose character as a truly liberal and patriotic proprietor endeared him to the people of the county in general. The mansion, though situated in a sheltered position, commands admirable views of the river, and the heights of Blackstairs and Mount Leinster in the distance; while the timber by which the rich grounds are adorned is some of the largest and finest on the banks of the Slaney. This branch of the ancient family of Harvey is well represented by the son of the late proprietor, Captain Percy Lorenzo Harvey, D.L., who resides at Londsdale, adjoining the demesne of Kyle House, which he built on a part of the family estate for his own accommodation and residence during the lifetime of his father. From the highly-improved character of this nice mansion, with its elegant parterres and splendid conservatory, it is eminently entitled to the notice of the tourist; while its admirable situation on a fine elevation immediately above the bank of the river enables the visitor to obtain some of the most picturesque and enchanting views which the valley of the Slaney affords. The neat Protestant church of this district, which was built within the last thirty years on the lands of Kyle, by the late Christopher George Harvey, Esq., is finely situated in the vicinity of several nice villas and cottages erected by the same gentleman, who was the eldest brother of the present proprietor. The post-office of the village is kept in one of these cottages, and is situated at the Cross, where capacious and finely laid out roads branch off at right angles.

The traveller, as he journeys through this part of the country, will at once come to the conclusion that this must be the property of a liberal and enlightened proprietor. Again taking his place on board the boat, the delighted excursionist will soon arrive at one of the most interesting and beautiful portions of the majestic river, which is about half-way to Enniscorthy. The Slaney is navigable for vessels of about 100 tons burthen to Pool-Darragh, which is opposite to the demesne of Bellevue, and coals are frequently discharged at Kyle, Brookhill, and Bellevue. From this point the contemplated deepening of the river to Enniscorthy was intended to commence; and here also the canal projected some years ago to that town was to have communicated with the Slaney. Whether either of these improvements will be carried out admits of some doubt, as the lines of railway now in course of erection may render such a sum of money as they would involve an unnecessary expenditure. On the opposite or western side of the river, Brookhill House, already alluded to, the new and beautiful residence of the Rev. Thomas Bell, displays itself, and shows to the finest advantage. It is enviably situated on a nicely-planted elevation, and surrounded on all sides by extensive lawns and

meadows. South of the mansion, a thickly-wooded glen, well stocked with game, divides the demesne from the adjoining property. This very desirable residence derives no small advantage from its proximity to the extensive demesne of Bellevue, which considerably enhances its otherwise high claim to the notice and admiration of the tourist. Bellevue, the delightful residence of Anthony Cliffe, Esq., is admirably situated on a gentle elevation above the river, from which it is divided by the rich and extensive sloping lawn. The mansion is a splendid house of modern construction, which displays its front to the Slaney, and presents a peculiarly elegant appearance. The entrance is beneath a magnificent portico formed by eight light and handsome columns of the Ionic order, and is approached by a capacious flight of steps, which extends the entire length of the grand centre. A fine boldly projecting wing extends on each extremity of the portico, and gives a finish and an air of grandeur to the rich façade. The building is of quadrangular form, and affords ample accommodation to the large establishment which is maintained by its munificent proprietor. The view from the front of the mansion is very beautiful, and comprises within it the lands of Merton, Macmine, and Kilgibbon, on the north; Killurin, Carrigmannon and Healthfield on the south; while on the east or opposite side of the river, Newtown, beautiful Londsdale, the rich lands of Kyle, with Moat-park, and James's Town, appear to the greatest advantage. A magnificent drive two miles in length sweeps along the margin of the river, and extends from the north entrance of the demesne to Penzance on the south. The pleasure-grounds are extensive and beautiful, and the gardens well kept. The farmyard is situated at the northern extremity of the demesne, and near the bank of the river, and is remarkable for all the appliances which modern improvement in the science of agriculture has produced. Large quantities of stock are reared and fattened on the lands which adjoin the demesne. The ruins of an ancient church are to be seen in the churchyard, which is situated within the demesne, at a short distance from the mansion.

On a recent visit to this exceedingly beautiful seat, I felt agreeable surprise on beholding the elegant domestic chapel which has been recently erected by the excellent proprietor. It is in the Decorated style of architecture, and consists of a nave and chancel, the nave being 40 feet in length by 18 in breadth, and the chancel 16 feet by 16. It is constructed of hammered limestone, the deep blue colour of which contrasts favourably with the pure white granite of which the door-jambs and window-edgings are composed. It is entered in the south side, which forms its principal façade, by an ornamental porch, with a deeply-recessed and finely-moulded Gothic door. This entrance will afford admission to the tenants and neighbours of the amiable and charitable proprietor; while a corridor which connects it with the mansion will be available for the principal members of the family. There is also a nice small porch, with a characteristic door, through

which the ladies and gentlemen of the household and their visitors may enter the chapel from the elegant conservatory which graces the south end of the grand front of the mansion. On the north side of the nave is the organ-gallery, and beneath it are stairs, whereby access is afforded from the domestic apartments. The fine chancel window of three mullions and nice head tracery, as well as the three lancet windows which light this part of the chapel, are of beautiful stained glass; while the nave is lighted by two fine Gothic windows of one mullion on the south side. The corridor, which communicates with the principal portions of the mansion, is lighted by Gothic windows also filled with stained glass. The decorations of the chancel, the ceilings of the roof, and of all parts of the interior, together with the elegant altar and tabernacle, which are of the choicest marble, constitute this beauteous temple one of the finest domestic chapels to be seen in this country.

Passing onward from Bellevue, the tourist from his boat will notice the house and demesne of Thomas Whitney, Esq., a very handsome place, well furnished with trees and ornamental plantations. The next object of interest which attracts his particular attention is Macmine Castle, the beautiful seat of John Richards, Esq. This fine old place is surrounded by rich and extensive grounds, which are decorated with timber of long standing and fine growth. An island covered with verdant pasture is formed in that part of the river which is immediately in front of the demesne, and is considered a valuable appendage to it. The fine old castle which constituted a portion of the mansion was kept in excellent preservation by the King family, its former proprietors; but on the estate coming into the possession of Mr. Richards, the eldest son of the Rev. George Richards, of Coolstuffe, who became the purchaser of it under the Incumbered Estates Commission, he at once commenced improvements on a very extensive scale. These improvements included a full and complete restoration of the mansion and castle, and such is the alteration of both, that nothing short of a total rebuilding of them could be supposed to have taken place. This handsome pile may now be considered a specimen of an unique English baronial castle of moderate dimensions, the old parent tower and its modern adjuncts being in perfect harmony with each other. A new avenue has been laid out by the spirited proprietor, with a splendid gateway and an elegant gate-lodge in the Elizabethan style of architecture. Kilgibbon, a large and well-wooded demesne, formerly the residence of the family of Savage, the maternal ancestors of Harry Alcock, Esq., who inherits the estate in right of his mother, immediately adjoins the lands of Macmine, and keeps up the continuous chain of park and woodland scenery for which the banks of the Slaney are so proverbial. The house and grounds of this fine old place are at present in the occupation of a respectable gentleman, Daniel Coates, Esq., who holds them as tenant under Mr. Alcock. Advancing up the now diminishing

stream, the excursionist will notice the extensive ruin of Birmount House, formerly the residence of the Leeson family; and somewhat farther on, the new and handsome villa erected a few years since by the late James Gettings, Esq., on the site of what was formerly Birmount Cottage, the residence of P. Frayne, Esq., to whose widow Mr. Gettings was married. This nice residence is now in the occupation of Vincent Bartolucci, Esq., a native of Italy, whose father, General Bartolucci, was an officer of great distinction in that country.

The boat has now arrived at Edermine, the beautiful seat of Sir James Power, Bart., whose late father, Sir John Power, purchased the demesne and estate from Lawrence Toole, Esq., the elder brother of the late Colonel Toole, of Curracloe House. Immediately after the property came into the hands of the late baronet, he erected this fine house as a residence for his son, the present proprietor—then one of the representatives of the county in parliament—who, immediately subsequent to his taking possession of the new mansion, entertained the Marquis of Normanby, then Earl Mulgrave and Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, when his Excellency visited the county of Wexford. Since that period large sums of money have been expended by the munificent owner in draining, planting, and beautifying the demesne, which now presents a highly-improved and very rich appearance. The mansion, now called Edermine House, originally a fine quadrangular building, erected more with a view to internal comfort than external ornament, is at present undergoing considerable improvements, with additions which the increasing family of the honourable baronet, and the consequent increased number of his household, may be supposed to have rendered necessary. The additions consist chiefly of a library, billiard-room, and domestic chapel. The billiard-room extends south of the mansion, and is flanked by an elegant tower of cut granite, 3 stories in height. The front of this adjunct displays a fine open portico, which extends from the mansion to the flanking tower, and is formed by light and finely-fluted cast-iron columns of the Doric order, six in number, that rest on the platform, from which there is an entrance by a commodious double door, the upper parts of which are of plate glass. The roof of the billiard-room is also of glass. The platform of the portico is approached by capacious granite steps, and the ceiling, which is chaste and beautiful, is enriched at certain distances by elegant central ornaments, with light and finely-executed foliations. The library, which shows a semi-hexagon projecting front to the south, and is flanked on the west by the elegant tower already mentioned, is separated by a commodious chamber, intended as a study for the young gentlemen of the family, from the nice chapel, which occupies the eastern extremity of this front. This chapel is a fine oblong building 40 feet in length by 20 in breadth in the clear, constructed of hammered limestone, the joints of the work being scraped and filled up with plaster of Paris. The quoins, window edgings, and other ornamental parts, are of nice granite, which contrasts finely with

the bluish limestone employed in the main body of the edifice. This interesting appendage to the mansion has an unmistakable church-like appearance; its cut-stone belfry, its elegant chancel Rose window, the fine geometrical divisions of which will be enriched with stained glass, and the three coupled Gothic windows on its southern side, constitute it a perfect and beautiful house of worship. Extensive corridors leading from the mansion communicate with the chapel. The principal or main entrance to the mansion is beneath a handsome portico formed by Doric columns supporting a characteristic entablature. A finely-modelled figure of the stag, in imitation of stone—his branching antlers strikingly developed—is represented as resting in an easy half-reclining posture on each side of the entrance. The nice stable and coach-yard, which form a spacious quadrangle, in one of the sides of which is a handsome clock, are situated north of the house. The commodious farm-yard, and the extensive aviary, the latter enclosed by rich wire-work, are situated east of it. The water-wheel that turns the machinery of a powerful engine which performs various important functions, including threshing and other valuable operations, is situated in this yard. And here also, within a new square tower, on the summit of which is a cistern which supplies the entire concerns with water, is placed the well-adjusted machinery, by the aid of which so many desirable results are produced, and the ingenious designs fully accomplished. Between the luxuriant plantations handsome walks and drives have been laid out, which, although the demesne is of comparatively limited extent, comprise a circuit of nearly a statute mile. Portions of these walks extend along the margin of the river, where nice boats are kept for the delightful recreation which can be enjoyed while gliding over its silvery waters. On various parts of the demesne which adjoin the mansion, beautiful parterres are laid out, and plentifully adorned with all that is rich and rare in the way of ornamental plants and beauteous flowers. On that part which lies before the south front is the grand conservatory, which, as well as many of the improvements introduced here, is the work of an ingenious Wexford man, Mr. James Pierce, whose artistic efforts and skill are as creditable to himself as they are honourable to the liberal-minded proprietor who patronised him, and thus gave him an opportunity of manifesting the resources of his prolific genius. In the central compartment of the splendid conservatory is a magnificent pyramidal stand of plants and flowers, both native and exotic; while in one of the side compartments extends a grapery, and in the other a peachery, filled, when I saw them in the latter end of the month of August, with an abundance of the most luxuriant fruit. On this part of the grounds is a beautiful statue of Terpsichore. At some distance west of the mansion a circular area has been formed into terraces and elegant parterres, with nicely-cut geometrical beds, also enriched with every variety of plants and flowers; in the centre of which, on an elevated pedestal, stands a fine statue of the boy Cupid; the

mischievous urchin, although said to be blind, taking apparently well-directed aim, and with his well-strung bow and sharply-pointed arrow, about to inflict a rankling, if not fatal, wound on the susceptible heart of some young and unsophisticated victim. In front of this interesting and richly embowered space stretches a beautiful terrace, upon which, at well-regulated distances, are four magnificent Italian pines, which, with the closely-shaven sward, arrest the attention and challenge the admiration of the visitors. Fine specimens of the same description of tree stand immediately in front of the gate-lodge, opposite the grand entrance to the demesne.

At some distance south of the conservatory and surrounding pleasure-grounds, in the centre of a large circular area, is a beautiful island, encircled by a deep canal, which is fed by water-pipes from distant parts of the demesne, that, as occasion may require, can be drained off. This island is approached by neat and fanciful bridges, one at the end of each of the capacious walks which lead to it. Here, also, handsome flower-beds are laid out and intersected with nice walks; while, in the centre, is a beautiful statue of Ceres, the goddess of the harvest, holding in her hand her appropriate emblem, the wheaten wreath. Swans, cygnets, and other aquatic fowl, including domesticated wild ducks, float and disport themselves on the surrounding water. The fruit and vegetable garden is situated on the opposite side of the road, and, like the demesne, is enclosed by a substantial wall. The furniture and internal decorations of the mansion are perfectly in keeping with the external appearance of this delightful residence.

The Protestant church of Edermine, an edifice in the later style of English architecture, with a square pinnacled tower, is situated in the ancient burial-ground, popularly called the churchyard of Garrynisk, which occupies a commanding elevation at a short distance from the Enniscorthy road, and nearly opposite Edermine House. The handsome residence of the incumbent is at a short distance east of the church, and, like it, is surrounded and embellished with fine plantations, which give it a rich and pleasing appearance. About a quarter of a mile from the church is situated, within a ring of trees, a holy and long-venerated spring, dedicated to St. Kieran, and called by the people of the district, Coorawn Well; the latter designation being the old Irish appellation, as I have heard it called Tober-Coorawn; the townland upon which it is situated is also called Coorawn.

The Roman Catholic church of Oylgate belongs to this parish; and on the townland of Tincoon, between Edermine and Oylgate, is likewise an old and venerated well. From the frequency with which these highly-prized and venerated wells are to be met with in this country, it would seem that our ancestors were not insensible to the great blessings which their Almighty Creator conferred upon our island, in the abundant supply of this pure and inestimable element. But, besides the advantages derived therefrom in a physical point of

view, there are other causes which may account for the profound reverence with which these wells have been regarded by the great body of the people. We find that long before the era of Christianity religious rites were connected with many of our important wells and groves; and hence the frequent allusions made to the sacred well and the sacred grove. Upon the introduction of the religion of our Divine Redeemer, the attachment of the people to these time-honoured places became considerably enhanced by their being dedicated, in many instances, to particular saints. Besides, in times of persecution at the hands of the ferocious Danes, and in subsequent years by other parties, these wells and groves became points of rendezvous where the devoted pastor met his docile people, and there ministered to them the sacraments prescribed by their religion.

Near the entrance to the handsome residence of Captain John Thomas Beatty, called Rochfort,* and opposite Birmount House, already mentioned, is the time-worn remnant of Browne's Castle, originally a strong defensive fortress; but which, owing to two of its sides having fallen, appears to the passer-by a comparatively insignificant fragment. It was based on a dense massive rock, which extends to the margin of the river, above which it stood in compact boldness, the quadrangular summit being barely sufficient to form its firm foundation. We are not informed by whom this castle was built; but finding, as we do from unquestionable authority, that the great Anglo-Norman family of Prendergast held possessions in this part of the county, it is not beyond the bounds of probability to conjecture that they were the original founders of it. From Edermine to Enniscorthy, the ride along the margin of the Slaney is really delightful, the clear and placid river not unfrequently resembling, in its gentle and tranquil course, a stream of liquid silver flowing between rich and spreading savannas, whose verdant surface might bear a comparison with the shade of the purest and brightest emerald. The most perfect and beautiful feature between Edermine and the central town of the county, is St. John's, the enviable seat of Charles H. Hill, Esq., J.P., whose admirable situation on the border of the limpid river invests it with characteristics which arrest the attention of the traveller, and impress him with the conviction that, for its extent, it can scarcely be surpassed for picturesque and scenic beauty. This remarkable place, which is situated about a statute mile from Enniscorthy, has connected with it ancient reminiscences of an interesting nature. We are informed by several writers that a monastery for Canons Regular of the order of St. Victor was founded here by Gerald de Prendergast about the year 1230, which subsequently, by the mutual consent of its founder, and John de St. John, Bishop of Ferns, was changed to a cell of the Abbey of St. Thomas, Dublin, on which occasion it became a convent of the order of St. Augustine. In this vicinity are extensive mills, worked by the waters of the river Urrin, which takes its rise at Mount Leinster, and after flowing by Monart House, the

beautiful seat of Edward Rogers Cookman, Esq., J.P., falls into the Slaney, at the bridge of St. John's.

Arriving at Enniscorthy, a good business town situated on both sides of the Slaney: that portion which occupies the western side of the river is in the parish of St. Mary's, Enniscorthy, and barony of Scarawalsh, while that on the eastern side is in the parish of Templeshannon and barony of Ballaghkeen. Soon after the arrival of the English in this country, the town of Enniscorthy was given by Earl Strongbow to Raymond le Gros, on the marriage of that nobleman with his sister, the Lady Basilia de Clare. Mr. Shaw Mason, in his account of the parish of Enniscorthy, attributes the building of the castle to King John; while writers of greater weight and authority state that it was erected by Le Gros. That it was erected in the reign of that monarch, and with his sanction, we have no reason to doubt; but I incline to the belief that, like the other castles in Ireland at the same period, it was built by the lord of the district, at the request or by the command of the king, in the same manner as were the castles of Meath, Carrickfergus, and other places, by De Lacy, De Courcy, and other lords of the pale, who held their lands by knights' services, and the erection of castles in their respective districts. We are informed that in the year 1227 the town was surrendered by Philip de Prendergast to the Bishop of Ferns, who asserted a prior claim; and in 1231 the surrender was confirmed by Gerald de Prendergast, the son of Philip, to whom the bishop restored it in lieu of other lands, but on the express condition that he should hold it under the see of Ferns. The castle and manor, which subsequently came into the possession of the Kavanaghs, were granted by Donald Kavanagh to the Franciscan monastery which he founded here. After the dissolution of the religious houses in the reign of Elizabeth, they were given, as we are told, by that queen to John Travers, who conveyed them for a term of years to the poet Spenser, by whom, it appears, they were assigned to Sir Henry Wallop, ancestor to the Earl of Portsmouth. The town and castle were taken by Cromwell in 1649, and soon after became vested in the ancestors of the Carew family, but were subsequently restored to that of Wallop in exchange for other lands. The castle,—now the property of the Earl of Portsmouth,—a quadrangular building, with a circular tower on each of its angles, is a very imposing object, and is in a state of excellent preservation.

The charter of incorporation granted to the town of Enniscorthy by James I., in the eleventh year of his reign, was abolished by the Municipal Corporations Act, in the year 1841; and the town is now governed by a body of commissioners under the provisions of the Towns' Improvement Act. Under the management of this public-spirited board considerable improvements have been effected, including the lighting of the town with gas; an ample supply of water from Sheil's Well on the Templeshannon side of the river; the flagging of

the streets and the removal of obstructions therein; together with many other matters of minor importance. Enniscorthy sent two members to the Irish parliament up to the passing of the Act of Union, when the sum of £15,000, granted as compensation for the loss of the franchise, was divided in the following proportions:—£12,300 to Cornelius, Lord Lismore, and £2,700 to Robert Cornwall, Esq. Markets are held on Thursdays and Saturdays, the former being the principal market-days, when large quantities of agricultural produce are exposed for sale in the square immediately in front of the market-house, which is in the centre of the town. Shambles were erected some years ago near the site of the old Franciscan monastery. Of this ancient religious house there are now no remains, the last remnant of it having been removed within the last twenty-five years. This was a slender square tower, which stood on a portion of the fine open area called the Abbey Ground. It was supported on four pointed arches, and had a remarkably striking and interesting appearance. It was removed for the alleged purpose of opening the ground for public convenience. Considerable improvements have been made in this locality, consisting of commodious quays, which on this, as well as on the other side of the river, extend for several hundred feet, and are fronted with mountain granite. On the south side of this extensive area, a fine square block of buildings, the largest as a group to be seen in the county, was erected some years since by a very enterprising merchant, Nicholas Sinnott, Esq. Two sides of the quadrangle exhibit nice domestic and shop fronts, while the other sides consist of commodious stores. Of the public buildings the most important is the splendid Catholic cathedral, an extensive and beautiful structure of cruciform character, designed by the celebrated architect, Mr. Pugin, of whose peculiar style it forms an admirable specimen. It was commenced under the direction of the lamented bishop, the Right Rev. Dr. James Keating, who, like its great designer, did not live to see it finished. The tower was raised to its full height by the late bishop, the Right Rev. Dr. Miles Murphy, who succeeded his lordship, Dr. Keating, who also purchased a large and powerful bell, and a noble organ, which was manufactured by Messrs. White and Son, Dublin. Many of the internal decorations were likewise perfected during the brief apostolic sway of this dignified and saintly bishop; and consequently his illustrious successor, the Right Rev. Dr. Thomas Furlong, found it in a highly satisfactory state; the spire, however, has still to be added, which, when completed, will be the consummation of a work of which, not only the inhabitants of Enniscorthy, but even the entire Catholic population of the diocese, will have reason to be proud. Much praise is due to the people of this town, who, by the spirit evinced by them in the erection of this magnificent church, in seasons of distress and destitution, have furnished such a manifestation of their piety and munificence. There is a new and handsome cemetery in the rear of the

cathedral, in which are several nice tombs and sepulchral monuments; and a large school, in connection with the National Board of Education, immediately adjoining the cathedral grounds. This grand church, with its magnificent tower, forms a remarkably striking feature, and being situated on elevated ground in the highest part of the town, can be seen to considerable advantage by the traveller as he passes from Dublin to Wexford. The convent of the Nuns of the Presentation order, with their fine chapel and nice school, is favourably situated at a short distance west of the cathedral, and commands an excellent view of the river and the handsome seats that ornament its banks. A branch of the devoted Sisters of Mercy, at Wexford, has recently been established here, and consists at present of three of the nuns, who reside in a very neat cottage in the northern suburbs. Their school is situated in the Shannon on the opposite side of the river, closely adjoining the Christian Brothers' School, a new and commodious house. The National Model School, a handsome structure constructed of rich brick, with granite dressings, recently erected in the south-western suburbs, is not only an ornament to the town, but, from the money expended in supporting its staff, must be considered an advantage to it. A site has also been selected in this neighbourhood for the erection of a lunatic asylum for the county.

The Protestant church, a very imposing and handsome structure, ornamented with pinnacles, and enriched with a fine tower containing a sweet-toned bell, some years since underwent extensive repairs under the direction of Mr. Deane Butler, of Stephen's Green, Dublin, upon whose judgment and skill as an architect it reflects no small degree of credit. It is likewise situated on elevated ground, and, with its light and elegant spire, commands the notice and admiration of the traveller. There is a Wesleyan Methodist chapel, and also a Quakers' meeting-house, in the town. Near the rectory, in the parish of Templeshannon, are the remains of an ancient church, said to have been founded by St. Senan, who was a contemporary of St. Aidan, or St. Maidoc, Bishop of Ferns. Vinegar Hill, whose sour and acrid appellation has not been mollified by the untoward events in connection with the insurgent movement of 1798, is situated in this parish. The union workhouse and Fever Hospital, being situated on high ground, are prominent objects, and appear to considerable advantage. There is a fine Sessions House in the town, where quarter sessions are held twice in the year, and petty sessions every week. There are branches of the Provincial and National Banks here. A remunerative trade is carried on between Wexford and this place, by means of boats or lighters of about 40 tons burden, which are skilfully navigated, and sail with considerable speed. These convey corn and butter to Wexford for shipment, and bring in return iron, coals, culm, and limestone. When the Dublin and Wicklow line of railway is extended to this town, and that from Ballywilliam pushed on to meet the Wexford and Enniscorthy line at present projected, additional

facilities for developing the resources of the county will be afforded; in which advantages, as a matter of course, Enniscorthy must largely participate. Fairs are held here twelve times in the year. There are several corn and flour mills in the town and neighbourhood, some of which are worked by water, and others by steam; there is also an extensive brewery carried on here. This town is said to derive its present name from the island which is formed in the river about a furlong above the bridge; the term *Inis*, the Irish name for "island," coupled with *Corthae*, its original name, constituting its modern appellation.

Of the several fine seats which are to be seen in the neighbourhood of Enniscorthy, Castleboro', the residence of the Right Hon. Lord Carew, Lord-Lieutenant of the county, is the most important. Of this extensive and beautiful demesne, and the grand palatial mansion, I have ventured to speak at some length in my former small book, feeling conscious at the same time how inadequate are my powers of description to do anything like justice to a place so abundantly favoured with the bountiful gifts of nature, and so enriched and beautified by artistic taste and skill. And now that the external grandeur of the splendid mansion is, if possible, exceeded by the magnificent furniture and decoration of its ample saloons and noble chambers, I shall, perhaps, by exercising a judicious forbearance, best preserve the slender reputation I may have acquired as a descriptive tourist, and at the same time save my readers the mortification of finding so interesting a subject feebly treated. There are many features, however, in this renowned locality, besides the magnificent mansion and its beautiful adjuncts, fully entitled to notice and observation. Among the foremost of these is the fine river Boro, which flows in a very attractive form through the grand demesne, and which, in front of the elaborate and ornate façade of the splendid mansion, presents the appearance of a handsome lake; its neat bridges, and near to them its rushing cascades, investing it with traits at once graceful and picturesque; while the fine terraces, with their bordering of pure granite, and the several flights of the same rich material, that lead downwards to the margin of the river, give additional charms to the imposing scene. Nor should the gratified visitor, in his unqualified admiration of the modern palace-like building, overlook the ruin of the old defensive castle, which, partially enveloped in ivy, stands, in all the dignity of reverend old age, on the opposite side of the river, at a short distance south-west of the new and stately edifice raised by the late lamented peer, the patriotic representative of a truly noble line of ancestors, to many of whom it afforded the requisite guardian care and protection. The nice church, too, its elegant spire rising above the rich encircling trees, attracts the visitor's notice, and forms a peculiarly interesting feature in the bright and extensive landscape. A single day is by far too brief a space to enable the delighted visitor to realise the various combinations and enviable characteristics of this

grand place, where 1,000 acres, undivided by a single fence and intersected with various avenues and rich drives, hold out inducements to him to luxuriate in viewing in detail that which is so well calculated to excite his astonishment and awaken his curiosity. The fine quadrangular range comprising the stables and coach-houses, and likewise the flower, fruit, and vegetable gardens, demand their share of his attention, and will amply repay the time spent in their examination. A new and fine approach to the grand mansion, with a splendid gate-lodge, is now (the summer of 1862) being constructed on that part of the demesne which is in the immediate vicinity of the road leading to the railway station at Ballywilliam.

The Catholic church of this district is situated at Cloughbawn, where the old cruciform structure erected in 1798 has been replaced by a handsome modern edifice on a site given by the noble proprietor, Lord Carew, who, in addition, gave the munificent donation of £150 towards its erection. This handsome church is about 80 feet in length and 30 in breadth, with a nice belfry on its western end, and a cross upon its eastern gable. Besides the handsome chancel window, there are four windows of one mullion in the south side, and three of the same character in that of the north, the sacristy and vestry being on this side. This very pretty church is situated a few perches south of the neat residence of the parish priest, and the site of the former church, which has been taken down. The school built by the late Lord Carew in the year 1816, and which he endowed with four acres of land, with a stipend of £15 a year to the master, is situated in this district, and is at present in connection with the National Board of Education. Another new Catholic church has recently been erected at Courtnacuddy, which is also on Lord Carew's property, and for the erection of which he gave the site and a donation of £50. In style and dimensions it corresponds with the last-mentioned church, with the exception of the windows, which are of lancet character, and of plate glass. Towards the more recently erected Catholic church of Davidstown, which is a very neat edifice in the same style, his lordship gave a donation of £20; while to that of Rathnure, which was rebuilt in the year 1860, he gave a subscription of £10, although it is beyond the precincts of his estate. A new Roman Catholic church has likewise been built on the borders of the wood of Killoughram, near the village of Caim, which closely adjoins his lordship's demesne; and although the fact has not come within my knowledge, I have scarcely a doubt but that it also received substantial testimony of his lordship's bounty. Acts like these require no comment, as they carry with them their best eulogy. I cannot, however, refrain from expressing the surprise and pleasure I experienced while riding in this part of my native county, in witnessing the erection of so many houses of worship within such a comparatively brief space of time. Coupling these with those which I have noticed at Castlebridge, Oylgate, and Camolin, and the extensive restorations

that have been made in the churches of Boulavogue and Ballygarrett, I became lost, as it were, in astonishment at the progress of that heaven-born zeal which has enabled the people of a country proverbially poor thus to improve and increase the temples of their religion. I have observed with pleasure, also, that the old style so much in vogue some fifty or sixty years ago has been laid aside, and the old cruciform or T chapels, so much in use about those periods, giving place to the more sightly and appropriate churches that, while they afford such superior accommodation, present such agreeable external features, and which enrich and adorn the surrounding landscapes. I have noticed also, in many instances, that our Protestant brethren are improving the style of their churches, and adopting the fine classical Gothic of former days, specimens of which are frequently to be met with among our interesting ruins, and which declare, more convincingly than books, that our ancestors were in advance of us, especially in the character and style of their churches.

In the neighbourhood of Castleboro' is situated the Protestant church of Rossdroit, a plain edifice erected in the year 1795, the tower of which, being considered in a dangerous state, was taken down some years ago, and a new one erected. The quoins used in the construction of this tower were brought from the ruins of the Franciscan monastery at Enniscorthy. Adjoining the present structure are the remains of the ancient church of this place. The neighbouring parish of Killan is bounded on the west by the Blacketairs mountain, which divides the county of Wexford from that of Carlow. The Protestant church is a handsome edifice in the early English style, and was erected in 1832, at an expense of £1,270, a loan of £1,200 being granted by the late Board of First Fruits. The glebe-house, a handsome modern villa, is nicely situated amid luxuriant plantations, and commands excellent views of the range of Blackstairs and the White mountain. In the Roman Catholic divisions this parish is included in the liberty of Templeudigan, one of the chapels of which is situated at Grange. The newly-built Catholic church of Rathnure is about a mile from the village of Killan, and is a very good house of worship. The chancel window of this church, a handsome triplet, is of plate glass; there are four mullioned windows in each of its sides. Before the area in front of the church is a strong and remarkable structure, the summit of which terminates in a belfry containing a good bell. The house of the parish priest, the Rev. Miles Doran, and the school, which is under the National Board of Education, immediately adjoin the church. Near the village of Killan is a holy well dedicated to St. Anne, from which it is supposed the place derives its name. There are some handsome seats in this neighbourhood, among which may be mentioned Woodbrook, the seat of William J. Blacker, Esq., and Grange, the residence of John F. Richards, Esq. In the immediate vicinity of Castleboro', those of Coolbawn, a fine demesne and noble mansion, and Ballyhyland, enriched with planta-

tions, arrest the notice of the tourist, and grouping as they do with the grand demesne of Lord Carew, call forth the unqualified admiration of the visitor.

Leaving Castleboro', and proceeding to Wilton Castle, the elegant seat of Harry Alcock, Esq., the tourist will be called on to notice Boro Hill, the nice residence of Miss Fitzhenry, which is situated on a fine elevation above the lesser Boro, that forms a junction with the larger river of that name at the bridge of Ballymackesy, near the handsome residence of Laurence Sweetman, Esq., J.P. The demesne of Wilton combines natural advantages which cannot be exceeded in this country. These consist in its widely spreading and verdant meadows, which are studded and ornamented with the most luxuriant trees of every variety; in its lofty and sheltering hills, which are clothed to their summits with young and vigorous plantations; and in its beauteous river, which after intersecting the magnificent grounds, flows before the south front in a rapid and graceful form. Of this new and beautiful castle, and the rich surrounding velvet lawns, which are dotted and beautified by some of the most healthful and vigorous trees to be seen in this part of the country, I have already spoken in my former publication, and therefore, on the present occasion, I shall confine myself to the mere statement, that those who visit the county of Wexford, for the purpose of rendering themselves familiar with its rich park and woodland scenery, should not take their departure from it without visiting this fine seat. This eminently beautiful place is situated in the parish of Clonmore, which, under the Protestant ecclesiastical arrangements, is a vicarage in the diocese of Ferns, and forms part of the union of St. Mary's, Enniscorthy. A neat modern church in the later English style, with an embattled tower, was erected on a site given by the late Harry Alcock, Esq., on the lands of Bree, which closely adjoin the demesne of Wilton, in the year 1827. The nice residence of the vicar, the Rev. Charles Douglas Ogle, immediately adjoins the church. In the Roman Catholic divisions this parish is included in the liberty of Bree, where the new and lofty church, erected some years since, is situated. This spacious structure is 120 feet in length, including the porch and the sacristy, by 30 in breadth; and from the elevation on which it stands near the demesne of Wilton, as well as from its fine appearance, it being of the pointed Gothic style of architecture, can be seen as an interesting object for several miles. The residence of the parish priest and the school, which is under the National Board, are situated in the vicinity of the church. An out chapel of this union and a National school are situated at Galbally, about two miles from this place. Clonmore was very early rendered a place of importance, St. Aidan, or Maidoc, Bishop of Ferns, having founded a monastery there in the sixth century for Canons Regular of the order of St. Augustine. This monastery, it appears, was burnt in the year 740, and in 832 was plundered by the Danes; who again, in the

following year, burnt it on Christmas night, when they killed many of the brethren and carried others with them as prisoners. History informs us that Dermot Moilnambo, Lord of Kenselah, plundered and destroyed Clonmore in the year 1040. It experienced a similar misfortune at the hands of Donough, son of Brian Boru. Some vestiges of the old church of the monastery are still to be seen in the ancient burial-ground; and on a hill in the same neighbourhood the remains of a cromlech. Near the waterfall formed by the Boro river, on the estate of Wilton, is one of the old raths so common to this country. The Boro, after passing through the demesne of Wilton, in its progress towards the Slaney, flows through a rich valley, in the vicinity of which is situated the fine residence of David Beatty, Esq., called Borodale. In front of this handsome seat, the river, sweeping in an ample curve, falls downwards to the extensive mills of Kilcarbery, worked by Mr. Davis. Here it divides itself, one arm of it affording the requisite assistance for turning the mills; and again uniting at a short distance below the bridge of this place, glides into the Slaney nearly opposite the fragment of the ruin called Brown's Castle.

Proceeding from Enniscorthy to Newtownbarry, along the western bank of the Slaney, the tourist will notice, at a short distance from the bridge of Scarawalsh, the nice residence called Farmley, now in the occupation of Richard Williamson, Esq., who, from its highly improved appearance, must have made a liberal expenditure upon it. The mansion, a fine modern house, was erected about twenty years ago by George Rawson Richards, Esq., who continued to reside in it for a few years. Advancing by this line, the traveller will soon arrive at Munfin, the fine seat of Richard Radcliffe Cary, Esq., than which there is not a more rich and beautiful place on the banks of the Upper Slaney. The mansion, which stands on a finely-planted elevation, is not unlike that of St. John's, the residence of Charles H. Hill, Esq., near Enniscorthy. Like it, trees of the greatest beauty and finest growth, at well-regulated distances, stretch along verdant banks of uncommon richness, whose extremities are margined by the clear and shining river. This delightful seat is of long standing, and constituted, as we are credibly informed, the residence of the celebrated Sir Toby Butler. The extensive avenue in the rear of the house is said to have been constructed through the adjoining wood for the convenience of this learned personage to drive to the neighbouring Roman Catholic chapel on Sundays and holy-days.

Near the bridge of Ballycarney is situated the nice church of that parish, which is in the later English style of architecture, with a pinnacled tower. It was erected about thirty-two years ago, on a site near which are two fragments of a very strong building, standing a few yards asunder. The residence of the incumbent, the Rev. Loftus Nunn—brother to the very popular and upright magistrate, John Nunn, Esq., Silverspring, and uncle to the extensive proprietor, Edward Westby Nunn, Esq.,—a neat, comfortable cottage-like house,

is situated about half a mile from the church. Beyond the bridge of Ballycarney, in the parish of Ferns, is situated Clobemon Hall, the beautiful seat of the late Matthew Thomas Derinzy, Esq. The mansion, a fine modern structure in the Grecian-Doric style of architecture, with a nice portico supported by light and graceful characteristic columns, stands upon a handsome lawn, which is margined by the river Slaney, and presents a peculiarly rich and elegant appearance. The demesne is of considerable extent, with two handsome entrances, and is very richly planted; while the gardens are spacious, and finely laid out. The offices, like the house, are new and commodious. On a part of the demesne are the ruins of a castle, formerly belonging, as we are told, to the ancestors of Lord Baltimore.

Soon after leaving this fine place, the tourist will arrive at Newtownbarry, which is admirably situated on the banks of the Slaney, that flows beside the village, and divides the parish of St. Mary's, in which it is situated, from the parish of Kilrush. This place was formerly called Bunclody, deriving this appellation from the river Clody, that has its source in the neighbourhood of Mount Leinster, and which, after passing through the town, falls into the Slaney at the bridge near the entrance to the demesne of Woodfield. It takes its modern name from the family of Barry, who were the predecessors of the late Earl of Farnham, to whom the property on which it stands belonged. It may be said to lie at the foot of Mount Leinster, and is about five miles from the summit of that mountain, by which it is sheltered on the south and west. This town consists of one long and wide street, in the centre of which several trees of large growth line the margin of the river Clody, which, as it flows through the wide street, supersedes the necessity for washhouses, which are deemed so essential in towns differently circumstanced. The Protestant church, a handsome and richly decorated structure, with a neat spire, is situated on the side of a fine elevation, and being surrounded with beautiful trees, presents a remarkably interesting appearance. The handsome Catholic church is of more recent erection, and is both a neat and strong edifice, whose striking and ornamental tower shows to great advantage, and can be seen, as a pleasing object, for several miles. The internal decoration and embellishment of this nice house of worship are perfectly in keeping with its prepossessing exterior. The Rev. James Parle, who had been for several years in charge of this important district, erected, within the last few years, a commodious and beautiful house immediately adjoining the church, in which he established a community of nuns, of the order of the Faithful Companions. This very enlightened and pious clergyman was anxious to secure the combined advantages of education, so that not only the children of the poor might be properly instructed, but even those of the wealthy and independent people of the district might participate in the blessings which a good and polite education can bestow, as the ladies of the convent had arranged to take boarders. That this

desirable project is capable of being successfully carried out there can be no doubt, as I know, of my own knowledge, that an establishment of the same order has been tried on a large scale, and with the best results, in a distant part of Ireland, as I shall show hereafter.

Woodfield, with its extensive demesne and surrounding estate, formerly the property of the Earl of Farnham, and subsequently that of the Hon. Somerset Maxwell, was purchased some years since by Samuel Ashton, Esq., of Manchester. This very fine estate comprises within it the whole of Newtownbarry, and a considerable portion of the neighbouring country; while the demesne is favourably situated on the banks of the Slaney, which winds through it in a peculiarly graceful and serpentine form, and is crossed at certain points by fanciful rustic bridges. The mansion is of long standing, and of cottage-like character, in the Grecian style of architecture; and the gardens extensive and judiciously laid out. The magnificent demesne abounds in oak timber of very superior quality, large quantities of which have been cut down since the late proprietor became possessed of the estate.

Clohamon, a very rising and comfortable village, is situated on the banks of the Slaney, about a mile from Newtownbarry, and is rendered particularly interesting by the public spirit and great enterprise of Mr. Lewis, who, in addition to his extensive flour-mills, has, within the last thirty-six years, established a cotton factory here. Numbers of persons, male and female, find constant employment in this establishment, and, consequently, great benefits have been conferred on the locality by the industry and thrift to which it has given rise. Several new and comfortable houses, which are chiefly occupied by the families employed in the factory, have been erected in the village by Mr. Lewis. It would be most desirable that some of our men of capital would imitate the example of this gentleman, as such undertakings would have a tendency to restore the country to its former prosperity. Speculations of this character are the more called for, and are rendered essentially necessary, by the great gloom and depression that for so many years have pervaded the agricultural interests in general. And, although our prospects for the last few years have been greatly improving, still, in order to obtain that degree of permanent security so essential to the well-being of the community at large, it is of the greatest importance that works of this description should be established. The market of Newtownbarry, which is held on Saturday, is very well attended, there being no other market within ten miles of the town. There are eight fairs held here in the year. In the adjoining parish of Kilrush, which is bounded on the south by the river Slaney, and ends on the north in a range of mountain heights, including Car-Hill, Gibbet-Hill, Kiltilly, and Ballycadden, there are several handsome seats, namely, Balinapark House, Clohamon Lodge,

* Mr. Ashton has lately disposed of his interest in this property to W. Hall Dare, Esq.

Ballyrankin House, the seat of the Very Rev. Dr. Devereux, the benevolent rector of the parish, who, like "Sterne's Monk," knows so well how to practise what he preaches. Newlands, the nice residence of Captain Laurence Esmonde White, and Charlesfort, the fine house and demesne of Walter Dawson, Esq., are also in this parish; the former situated on the margin of the Slaney, and the latter about three miles from that river. The Protestant church, a small plain edifice, is situated in the centre of the parish. The Catholic church, a handsome structure, of comparatively modern erection, is also centrally situated, and therefore well suited to the requirements of the orderly and well-disposed people of the district. The residence of the greatly-respected parish priest, the Rev. James Fanning, immediately adjoins the church; and near it is the school, which is in connection with the National Board of Education. An out chapel of this liberty is situated in the half-parish of Askamore. Near Clohamon bridge, in the parish of Kilrush, are the remains of an ancient castle, the townland upon which it stands being called Castle Quarter.

Leaving this interesting locality, the tourist will, by an easy stage, arrive at Ferns, which, from an early period of the Christian era, has been the head of a diocese. This district is said to derive its name from Ferna, son of Carril, King of Decies, who, as we are told, was slain in a battle fought here, by Gallus, son of Morna; and owes its foundation as a diocese to St. Aidan, commonly called St. Maidoc, a descendant of Colla Vais, King of Ireland. This place suffered repeated injuries from the attacks of the marauding Danes; and subsequently, owing to the untoward and licentious conduct of Dermot MacMurrough, King of Leinster, underwent considerable vicissitudes; among which was that of the town being burnt, in 1166, by Dermot, to prevent it from falling into the hands of Roderic O'Connor, the monarch of Ireland. Other authorities state that it was destroyed by the Confederate armies under Roderic, who, advancing to Ferns during MacMurrough's absence in England, took the castle, and restored the frail and unfortunate Dervorgilla, wife of O'Rourke, Prince of Breffny, to her relatives. After the death of Earl Strongbow, who took possession of the castle of Ferns on the decease of his father-in-law, Dermot MacMurrough, it fell into the hands of William Fitz-Aldelm, who, on the death of Maurice Fitz-Gerald, exchanged it with the three sons of that distinguished nobleman for the castle of Wicklow.

Ferns, from its enviable situation on the river Bann, and in a fine open and healthful district, which is sheltered on the north and west by the range of mountains of which Slievebuy is the most elevated and conspicuous, was well suited to the requirements of the royal and dignified personages whose palaces and strongholds stood within its precincts. The grand castle, the ruins of which are still in tolerable preservation, was of ample dimensions, and quadrangular shape, with a strong circular tower on each of its angles; and, notwithstanding the injuries it sustained at the hands of Sir Charles Coote, by whom it was dis-

mantled in the year 1641, it still affords unmistakable evidence of its early importance and great strength. This castle, with its defensive adjuncts, which was erected on a fine elevated site, is supposed to have been built by William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, who married the Lady Isabel, daughter and sole heiress of Earl Strongbow. Within the south-eastern tower, which is the most perfect portion of this grand ruin, is a small chapel of elegant design, which is considered a great curiosity. The floor is of wood, and the ceiling elegantly groined, the beautiful ribs springing from corbels enriched with splendidly-carved human heads. The walls are of massive character, being about 12 feet thick. This tower consists of three stories, with strong winding stairs of eighty steps leading from the lower apartment, which presents a prison-like aspect, to the summit. The chamber comprising the second story is that which was appropriated to the chapel. The upper room is of similar design, with a strongly-flagged floor, and a coved ceiling like that of the chapel, but less ornamental, being destitute of the nice ribs and supporting corbels. The Protestant church, also called the Cathedral, a plain house of worship, is situated in the very extensive burial-ground of the parish. An ancient and curious monument, supposed to have been prepared to perpetuate the memory of the patron of the diocese, St. Aidan, occupies a niche in the interior of the church. The saint is represented in his episcopal robes, with his mitre on his head, his crosier across his breast, and a dog at his feet. This greatly venerated saint was for fifty years bishop of this diocese, and died in the year 632. The glebe-house, the residence of the rector, is situated on a handsome eminence opposite the church. The grounds are richly planted, and present a very fine appearance as viewed from the coach road. The renowned and venerated ancient well dedicated to St. Aidan, or St. Maidoc, and after him called St. Mogue's Well, is situated on the side of the high road, immediately opposite the Cathedral. Like many of the ancient wells already mentioned, its water has, from time immemorial, been considered efficacious in various diseases. Due care has been bestowed upon it, whereby it is preserved from all impurity. Evidence of this is to be seen in its protecting walls and arched stone roof. The Catholic church, a handsome and commodious building of cruciform character, with a gallery in each transept, as well as in the end of the nave, is situated in the western extremity of the town. It is graced with a tower containing a good bell and an ornamental clock, from the summit of which rises a remarkable spire.

The palace, which, previously to the union of the diocese of Ferns with that of Ossory, constituted the residence of the Protestant Lord Bishop, is a noble building, and stands at the extremity of a magnificent lawn, richly planted, and surrounded by broad lands of the greatest beauty and finest culture. This really fine building, as remarkable for the simplicity and elegance of its design as it is for the

beauty of its situation, was commenced in the year 1785, by Bishop Cope, who obtained an Act of Parliament whereby he was empowered to erect it from funds arising from two bequests made for the erection of an episcopal palace. This splendid seat is now the residence of E. T. Irvine, Esq., who has recently made considerable improvements on the mansion. Of the Augustinian monastery founded by King Dermot there are still some remains, consisting of the walls of a narrow building with lancet-shaped windows, and a tower of two stages, the lower story being of quadrangular shape, and the upper polygonal. These remains are on a portion of the palace grounds. Some remnants of antiquity, consisting of the fragments of a stone cross, supposed to belong to the tenth or eleventh century, appear inserted in the wall of the cathedral churchyard.

Proceeding from Ferns to Gorey, the tourist will pass through the handsome village of Camolin, which is said to have derived its name from an abbey founded here by St. Molin, second Bishop of Ferns, who died in the seventh century, and who, as we are told, sank the well at Ferns, which he dedicated to his predecessor, St. Aidan, or St. Mogue. Of the abbey founded here by this saint, of which mention has been made by the learned Alban Butler, there are still some remains on a portion of the demesne of the principal proprietor. There is a pretty little Protestant church here; and a new Catholic church, in the plain Gothic style, 92 feet in length, 22 in breadth, and 25 in height to the wall-plate.

Gorey, which may be considered a good town of its class, consists of one long street of ample width and uniform character, the houses in general being new and comfortable, and the markets very well attended. The market-house, a moderate-sized building with a plain front, is situated in the centre of the town. The Sessions House, where Quarter Sessions are held twice in the year, was erected in 1819, on a site granted by the late Stephen Ram, Esq., who, in the same year, gave a site for the erection of the parish church, that was built at an expense of £2,200, of which £200 was a gift from Mr. Ram, and the remainder from the Board of First Fruits. This church, which was a blending of the Norman and English styles of architecture, was considered of a vague and unseemly character, and notwithstanding the efforts that were made to enrich and adorn the exterior with a tower, pilasters, and ornamental pinnacles, it became so far condemned by the majority of the Protestant parishioners, that although it had suffered but little from the deteriorating hand of time, they resolved to replace it with a new one. In accordance with this resolution, the new structure, now completed, was commenced in the early part of the year 1859, and is a fine building in the early Gothic style, from a design by Mr. Wellan, after some of the modern English models. It consists of a nave, chancel, north transept, and south aisle, with a tower on the north side of the nave immediately west of the transept. The length of the nave and chancel is 118 feet,

and that of the aisle 98 feet in the clear. The entire width, including the aisle and transept, is about 85 feet. Three fine pointed arches divide the aisle from the nave; while the transept arch, which is of greater elevation, is of magnificent proportions, the height of the church being 50 feet. The window of the chancel is a fine triplet, and that in the western end of the nave is of five lights; while the west window of the aisle is of three lights, and that of the east end two. A grand circular window of twelve principal lights, besides the centre one, with an equal number of sub-lights, occupies the upper part of the transept, the under part being furnished with two single lights. The tower rises 22 feet above the ridge of the roof, and is surmounted by a spire of 19 feet, with a final ornament 3 feet in height. The material used in the building is hammered limestone, with granite quoins, door-jambs, and window edgings; and the workmanship irregular masonry, which presents a very fine appearance. The plan of this church being somewhat novel in its character, and the nave and aisle having each a separate roof, its general contour presents a striking singularity that, in an especial manner, attracts the notice and attention of the traveller. The greatest feature in Gorey, however, is the magnificent Catholic church, a massive structure in the later Saxon or early Norman-Gothic style of architecture. It is dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel, and consists of a nave, chancel, transept, side aisles, and central tower. The tower is supported by magnificent arches resting upon characteristic piers; while the nave is separated from the aisles by a series of finely-rounded arches, seven on each side, supported by circular columns with richly-wrought capitals. The sanctuary and the principal altar are within the lofty arches that support the tower, and unite in their appearance grandeur and simplicity. Smaller altars stand—one in each transept—beside the grand altar. The apse or chancel, which is of five sides, is lighted by two windows, and within it, in the rear and above the grand altar, is the nice organ. There are seven windows of the same character in each side of the nave, and an equal number in each side of the clerestory. A grand triplet window appears in the western end of the nave; while an elegant oriel window of circular form, filled with stained glass, which represents the Holy Ghost in the shape of a dove, occupies that part of the gable which rises above it. A strong and characteristic round tower, with a conical roof, rises immediately west of the north transept, and affords access to the ringing chamber and other portions of the grand central tower that springs from the intersections of the transept, the nave, and the chancel. The handsome residence of the parish priest immediately adjoins the church; and the convent of the Nuns of the Presentation order may also be said to adjoin it. In its vicinity, schools in connection with the National Board of Education have been established, in which boys and girls are carefully instructed—the latter by the pious ladies of the convent. There is a handsome school-house in the town, which was

erected by the late Stephen Ram, Esq. It is situated near the Protestant church and Court House, and shows a nice front to the street, consisting of an ornamental centre, and characteristic wings, constructed of fine red brick. In the eastern extremity of the town is situated the Fever Hospital, a small building of octangular construction, with a conical roof. This town, which is about thirty statute miles from Wexford, and eighty-four from Dublin, had a charter of incorporation conferred on it by James I., and continued to return two members to the Irish parliament until the passing of the Act of Union, when the sum of £15,000, awarded as compensation for the loss of the franchise, was paid to the then patron of the borough, Mr. Ram. Gorey is now governed by a body of commissioners under the Towns Improvement Act, and may be considered a rising and prosperous place. In the autumn of 1862, considerable portions of the line of railway extending from Rathdrum to Enniscorthy had been partially constructed in the vicinity of this and the latter town.

Ramsfort, the magnificent seat of the representative of the ancient family from which it takes its name—Stephen Ram, Esq., D.L.—is enviably situated near the town. The mansion, which has been recently considerably enlarged—indeed, I might almost say, rebuilt—was originally in the Italian style of architecture, but now exhibits the unmistakable characteristics of the enriched and more elaborate Lombardic style, and is therefore more in keeping with the grandeur and extent of the noble demesne, which abounds in rich and spreading lawns, interspersed with fine trees of great magnitude, and the charming pleasure-grounds, which are exceedingly beautiful. The elegant mansion stands on a fine elevation on the eastern side of the valley, through which flows the river Bann, and to which it shows its rich façade, the entrance being on its northern extremity; while that of the south is decorated with a handsome bell turret, ending in a light spiral ornament. The principal apartments, and the interior in general, are perfectly in accordance with the external appearance of this unique and very nice seat; the furniture, the pictures, the carving, and the tapestry, being of the most *recherché* character. The library, a noble saloon of more than 100 feet in length, is enriched with splendid oak carving imported from Amsterdam. The dining-room, also a fine apartment, is adorned with paintings by the first masters, of superior excellence; while one of the adjoining chambers is hung with tapestry, the cost of which was £1,000—the subjects depicted thereon, and the male and female figures by which they are illustrated, being finely developed, and apparently truthful. The billiard-room, which is situated in the upper part of the south end of the mansion, is a very fine apartment, of ample dimensions. The domestic chapel, with its magnificent altar-piece—a Spanish painting of great merit—is exceedingly beautiful. The organ, the seats, the drapery, and the general appearance of the church, are such as can vie with anything of the kind which has come under my observation.

The whole contour and style of the house, the furniture, and the extensive gardens, are of the purest and choicest Italian. In reference to Italian gardening, it may not be considered out of place to say, that in Italy, during a considerable portion of the middle ages, internal strife and incessant warfare confined persons even of the noblest fortunes to their strongholds and fortresses, and therefore the only gardens then existing were the pleasure-grounds which were cultivated within the immediate precincts of the court-yard or quadrangle of the castle; and, consequently, what they lacked in space was endeavoured to be made up for by ingenious decoration and elaborate ornament. When times, however, became more peaceable, men became more trustful and confiding, and by degrees ventured forth to enjoy the pleasures of a country life; when, as a matter of course, the art of gardening was more cherished, and the areas to which it was applied more extended. To the brethren of the several monasteries the science and cultivation of this style of gardening owe much of their celebrity, as, within their circumscribed and limited spheres, they devoted many of their leisure moments to promote and ensure its perfection. Fine terraces, sloping downwards to the beautiful expanse of water formed by the river Bann, extend for the distance of a furlong on both sides of the valley, which stretches north and south before the front of the mansion, with various flights of stairs leading to the splendid gardens and elegant parterres that are formed on each side of the intersecting stream. The balustrades of the flight immediately in front of the centre of the mansion are of finely-veined marble, and, up to a comparatively recent period, formed some of the ornamental portions of the church of St. Stephano at Venice, where, upon their removal from their original destination, they were purchased by Mr. Ram. Above the summit of the range on each side of the entrance to this flight, stands an elegant allegorical bronze statue, of the most exquisite symmetry. From the various alcoves and garden chairs that are placed at convenient intervals upon the several terraces, and also upon the velvet sward that stretches along the margins of the Bann, charming views are obtained, in which, at the head of the vale, appears the entire volume of the river, as it rushes from beneath a bridge of a single arch, upon which is based a nice Italian temple, wherein rustic seats are placed for the visitors' accommodation. From this point the clear and rapid river, in its downward course, can be seen bounding over a succession of some half-dozen falls, and forming picturesque cascades, which, from the brightness of their silvery foam, are discernible from a considerable distance. The river, after clearing these several obstructions, spreads into a fine circular lake, in which are formed two or three nicely-planted small islands—thence, pursuing its uninterrupted course, it takes its departure from the delightful pleasure-grounds, in a final cascade, at some distance south of the mansion. On the largest of the islands, with which there is a communication from the gardens by a handsome wooden bridge, has lately been erected an elegant small

chapel in the Romanesque style, with a beautiful campanile containing a bell; and a semicircular apse, in which are nine lights, filled with stained glass, upon each of which appears a saintly figure. This exceedingly pretty little temple, which has been dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, is entered by a handsome door beneath a characteristic arch with zig-zag mouldings, above which are three single round-headed windows similar to those that light the apse or chancel. There are six of the same character on the south, and four on the north side of the church. On the centre of the altar, which stands within the finely-proportioned chancel arch, that springs from a figure of St. Catherine, on the north, and from one of St. Dominic, on the south, is a beautiful statue of the Holy Virgin and her Sacred Infant. On the front of the altar-table are three sunk arched niches, that in the centre containing a statuette of St. Louis, while in that on the Gospel side is one of St. Teresa, and in that on the Epistle side, one of St. Francis. On an eminence north of the isle-studded lake is a handsome summer-house in the Italian style, above the entrance arch of which is an appropriate inscription from one of the works of the celebrated Bacon, which has reference to the pleasures and delights of the garden. From this rural temple can be enjoyed one of the best possible views of this very lovely place, the entire of the beautiful grounds, which are embellished with the rarest trees and shrubs, falling under observation. Among the beauteous trees the visitor will notice a series of magnificent Italian pines, which are judiciously planted on each side of the grand central walk, whose verdant and pillar-like appearance excites in an especial manner his unqualified admiration. Among the curiosities of this enchanting place is a fine spring well, which is covered with an arch of fantastic rock-work, from the summit of which springs a large Gothic cross. Near the back entrance to the demesne, the liberal proprietor has erected a nice chapel for the Nuns of the order of the Sisters of Mercy, whose untiring zeal in ministering to the spiritual and temporal necessities of the poor and the lowly cannot fail to prove a blessing to the town and neighbourhood.

Among the fine seats in the neighbourhood of Gorey, that of Courtown, the residence of the Right Hon. the Earl of Courtown, is the most important, and is justly entitled to the highest rank. The extensive and beautiful demesne is finely situated south of Tara Hill, an insulated and rugged mountain, and contains within it about 600 acres, forty of which are appropriated to pleasure grounds and gardens. Ornamental trees and evergreens of large size and luxuriant growth abound on all parts of it; while in the principal garden is to be seen a large and exceedingly beautiful evergreen oak, which is considered a rare curiosity. Within this garden is a light and elegant lodge, the roof of which projects considerably, and is supported on all sides by nice columns. The mansion is in the Grecian style of architecture and very favourably situated; while adjoining the principal entrance

stands the handsome church, surrounded by rich and umbrageous trees. At the back entrance to the demesne, which is approached from the road that leads to Courtown Harbour, a very pretty gate-lodge was, several years since, erected. The neighbourhood of Courtown, and especially the harbour of this small place, owes much to the energy and public spirit of the late and greatly lamented Earl of Courtown, whose efforts for its improvement were incessant and untiring. This excellent nobleman was a constant resident and good landlord, who by precept and example inculcated sound and judicious principles, both as regarded the cultivation of the soil and the breeding of stock. Through his influence and instrumentality large grants were made, from time to time, by the government, for the purpose of improving the navigation of the harbour of this place. But, from the insidious character of the sands which spread along that shore, these grants were expended without realising the anticipated results, and the neighbourhood has consequently been deprived of the contemplated advantages. The docks and works of the harbour are of excellent quality, and when viewed by the enlightened visitor, call up feelings of regret that the hopes of the noble proprietor, and those who with him took an interest in their construction, should have been so signally frustrated. The projectors of these works entertained the notion that, when they should have been carried out, vessels of comparatively large size would be enabled to trade to the port, and, with ease and facility, load and unload their cargoes. But to such an extent have these favourable anticipations been defeated, that, even with the advantage of a wooden pier which extends several perches from the front of the quay, none but vessels of limited dimensions can with safety resort to the place. Courtown Harbour is greatly frequented by bathers in the summer season, and cars are constantly plying between it and Gorey, some of them of very large size, and, from their construction, capable of carrying as many as forty or fifty persons at a time. These cars, which have been recently introduced by a spirited man of business in the town, are of considerable length, and consist of three or more tiers of seats, which rise above each other, on each side of the vehicle, like seats in the gallery of a theatre. They run back and forward at intervals of two hours, and, as the fare is only fourpence, they are generally crowded with passengers.

Seafield, which, for some years previous to the death of the late Earl of Courtown, constituted the residence of the present earl, is finely situated between Courtown House and Tara Hill. The house and grounds underwent considerable improvement during the occupancy of the noble peer, and therefore present a rich appearance. The junior branches of the late earl's family at present reside here. The present noble proprietor married at an early age, and, like his excellent father, showed a strong partiality for the home of his childhood, which, I am proud to say, he still cherishes; for, although closely connected with the highest families in the sister countries,

England and Scotland, he spends by far the greater portion of his time at Courtown, where, as a landlord and a magistrate, his influence and example are productive of the most decided advantage.

Ballynastra, the property, and formerly also the residence, of the Right Hon. Sir Thomas Esmonde, Bart., and at present the seat of his nephew, Captain John Esmonde, M.P., is situated about two miles from Gorey. The mansion, a fine square building of modern appearance, with a light Grecian portico surmounted by an elegant statue, stands within a demesne, the grounds of which are laid out with taste and skill, and embellished with a fine sheet of water environed by rich plantations. The Esmonde family were the owners of large quantities of property in this neighbourhood. Besides that in his actual possession, the royalty of a considerable portion is still enjoyed by the present right honourable baronet. At Little Limerick, in the parish of Kilkevan, which belonged to this ancient family, and which in former times gave the title of baron to its principal head or chief, are the remains of an ancient castle, and also the remains of an old church. Two fairs in each year are held on the ample fair-ground of this place.

While in the neighbourhood of Gorey, the tourist can avail himself of the advantage of visiting the old burial-ground, which immediately adjoins the fine residence now in the possession of John Glascott, Esq. In this churchyard are the remains of the ancient church of Clonatin, an interesting specimen of the olden time, the ruined walls of which, very generally covered with ivy, show it to have been about 30 feet in length by 24 in breadth. These walls are about 4 feet thick, and of solid irregular masonry, not unlike those of the old church at Beg-Erin, near the town of Wexford, and of St. Vaugh's, near the Point of Carne, in this county. It may also be said to partake of the style of some of the stone-roofed churches which are to be seen in parts of Ireland—such as the Cell of St. Columb at Kells, and St. Kevin's Kitchen at the Seven Churches. It was chiefly remarkable for its elaborately-sculptured doorway, the lower members of which were decorated with zig-zag mouldings, the unmistakable characteristics of the Norman style. The reticulated ornamental workmanship of the upper portion of the arch furnishes a clear proof that even in buildings of comparatively plain construction and limited dimensions some rare and very interesting artistic ornamentations are sometimes introduced. This doorway reminded me of the fine Norman specimen of the same kind which belonged to the old Church of St. David at Ballinaslaney, and that subsequently formed the entrance to the now ruined church of Kilpatrick in the demesne of Saunderscourt. Clonatin is considered by some of the learned to be a modification of Cluan-Aidan, which signifies "the retreat or cell of Aidan."

Proceeding by the sea-coast line of road from Courtown to Ballygarrett, the tourist will pass through the village of Riverchapel, where there is a plain cruciform Catholic church of long standing, adjoining

which are the residence of the officiating clergyman, and a school under the National Board of Education. Advancing by this route, he will soon arrive at the new church of Ardamine, recently erected on the estate of Solomon A. Richards, Esq., at a short distance north of his fine residence, Ardamine House, and of the old churchyard of the district, adjoining which is a verdant rath, and also an ancient stone cross. This exceedingly beautiful edifice, which is in the Early English style, was designed by G. E. Street, Esq., architect, London, and is, in its extreme length, 66 feet, and in breadth 16 feet 6 inches in the clear. The walls, internally and externally, are of irregular masonry, with ornamental bands of red brick, that, with the open timber roof, and the nice floor, which is paved with encaustic tiles in patterns, present a rich appearance. The south porch is roofed with Knockavoca stone, being the material generally used in the ancient cathedrals and abbeys of the county. The dressings are also of this description of stone. The handsome turret terminates in an elaborately-wrought and richly-gilt cross, painted in colours. The font and pulpit are of Caen stone; while the four windows of the chancel, which are of fine stained glass, furnished by Messrs. Clayton and Bell, are enriched with side columns of marble from the quarries of Cork, Connemara, and Clanmacnois. A sedilia is formed on the south side of the chancel. The works of this nice church were superintended by John Kelly, Esq., a gentleman of experience and consummate ability, who occasionally employs his leisure moments in catering for the information and amusement of an enlightened public. His architectural taste and antiquarian research have not unfrequently been rendered manifest by his valuable letters addressed to the editor of the *Wexford Independent*.

Arriving at Ballygarrett, the tourist's attention becomes directed to the fine Catholic church, a lofty structure, of ample proportions, in the Early English style of architecture; with an apse or chancel on its eastern extremity, and a tower of three stages at its western end. The tower, which forms the vestibule, communicates with the church by double arches of the Pointed Gothic style, and is entered in each of its sides by a handsome door. From the destitution of the times, this fine house of worship, which is 100 feet in length, 40 in breadth, and 40 in height to the wallplate, remained in a comparatively unfinished state until the year 1858, when the interior was chastely and beautifully finished by Mr. P. O'Connor, of Wexford, now so justly celebrated for his superior artistic taste and skill in church ornamentation. The roof, which heretofore was entirely open, is now concealed by a very rich flat ceiling, on a level with the wallplate, which, while it enables the preacher, or the celebrant of the mass, to be distinctly heard, gratifies the eye of judgment and taste by its fine cornice with elegantly-veined frieze, and its beautiful central ornaments, which are of circular form, and enriched alternately with light leafy decorations, and ventilators with finely-conceived geometrical divisions. The

lower parts of the walls are wainscoted, the sides of the floor boarded, and the centre tiled. The altar is nicely decorated, and enriched with fine statues of the Blessed Virgin and of Saints Peter and Paul. In the upper part of the chancel window in the rear of the altar, appears a beautiful painting, representing the Blessed Virgin as the "Star of the Sea," to whom the church is dedicated. The hope of the poor mariner in his hour of peril is seen standing on the waves of the ocean, with the emblem of security, the anchor, on each side of her. Thus the modern church of this interesting district, like its prototype at Danaghmore, the ruins of which, now in utter dilapidation, can be seen upon an eminence that overlooks the sea, has been dedicated to the Holy Virgin. This ruined fane, which is of considerable antiquity, is said to have been a cell to the abbey of Glascarrig. Commodious schools for the education of boys and girls, under the National Board of Education, are situated in the immediate vicinity of the church. The residence of the parish priest, the Rev. Richard Barry, to whose energy and influence are owing the very important improvements that have been made upon the church, is also in its immediate vicinity. The solicitude of this venerated clergyman for the spread of education among the children of his district has induced him to endeavour to enlarge the schools. Hence it will be seen that the instruction of the Irish youth is keeping pace with the civilisation and enlightenment of the times.

At Cahore, south of Ballygarrett and Glascarrig Point, is situated the new and exceedingly beautiful summer residence of John George, Esq., Q.C., late Solicitor-General, and member of parliament for the county. This elegant marine residence is situated on a high and projecting point of land, which rises immediately above the sea, and, from its peculiar and prominent position, is well calculated to form a landmark for vessels engaged in the coasting trade. The curving shore north of the house forms a nice cove; while the fine sandy beach is admirably adapted for the healthful exercise of bathing in the summer season. Great improvements have been carried out here by the learned and spirited proprietor. The extensive lawn, on the eastern extremity of which stands the unique and singularly beautiful house, has been nicely laid out and richly planted; and notwithstanding its great exposure to the breezes of the sea, the plantations appear healthy and vigorous. A fine square tower, of elegant proportions, graces the centre of the handsome building, from which, when the family are at home, a rich flag is seen to float.

The Protestant church of Killenagh, a neat structure, with a pinnacled tower, is situated about a mile north and east of the comfortable village of Ballygarrett, and about two miles from Ballycanew. In the latter handsome and commodious village is a church of long standing, which is situated in the popular burial-ground of the district. While here, I noticed the tomb of the Right Hon. George Ogle, a very distinguished man, whose remains, intermingled with

those of his lady and her relatives, the Moore family, lie buried in this churchyard. He resided for many years at the elegant seat called Bellevue, on the western bank of the Slaney, now the residence of Anthony Cliffe, Esq.; and, although a politician of the high Tory school, the resistance made by him in the Irish House of Commons to the measure of the Legislative Union, endears his memory to many Irishmen of every shade of politics. This celebrated gentleman raised the first volunteer corps in Ireland, and thereby held out an example, which was afterwards taken up by Charlemont, Grattan, Flood, and other distinguished patriots. In this neighbourhood is situated the fine estate of Sir Frederic Hughes, of Ely House, Wexford, which he inherits from his maternal uncle, the late Samuel Sparks, Esq. On a part of the demesne of Tomduff House, formerly the residence of Captain Sparks, and now in the occupation of John Jones, Esq., is the ancient churchyard of Killenagh, in which are to be seen some ancient tombs. Those who know the gallant proprietor of this estate will not feel surprise to learn that the tenantry on his property are among the most prosperous and comfortable in this part of the county. John Thomas Devereux, Esq., D.L., has recently purchased considerable property in the vicinity of Ballycanew, where, I was rejoiced to hear, he has given unmistakable evidence of his liberality as a landlord.

Proceeding by this line of road to Wexford, the tourist will notice, about two miles from Ballycanew, the strikingly handsome village of Monamolin, which stands amid rich plantations, on the side of a gentle eminence, on the northern side of the road. The Roman Catholic church, and the nice residence of the curate—this being an out-chapel of the union of Litter—together with the National School, form an interesting group; while the Protestant church, a very handsome structure in the later English style of architecture, with its pinnacled and embattled tower, and the neat residence of the clergyman, present features of an exceedingly pleasing and picturesque character. The houses in the village, though few in number, are remarkable for the cleanliness and apparent comfort which they exhibit; the whole presenting such a specimen of rural happiness as can bear a comparison with many of the pictures of home felicity that are drawn by those who look upon the agricultural districts of the sister country as models worthy of unqualified admiration. Travelling by the coast line from Ballygarrett to Wexford, the tourist will notice the house and demesne of A. W. Guinness, Esq., J.P. There are few parts of the county where the hand of improvement is more strikingly apparent than on the demesne and grounds of this spirited gentleman. The mansion, which is constructed of fine brick, is of a peculiarly rich and unique character, and is situated on the extremity of a lawn of ample dimensions, which has been but recently laid out, and which, on the side that skirts the high road, is embellished with young and vigorous plantations. Large numbers of the surrounding

peasantry have found remunerative employment on this property. Advancing in this direction, the tourist will soon arrive at Upton House and demesne, the fine residence of Loftus A. Bryan, Esq., upon which considerable improvements have been made. Manifestations of the cheering and progressive advancement, superinduced by good taste, united with opulent means, are to be seen here. These are to be found in the beauty of the grounds and the richness of the mansion, and also in the nice brick cottages which have been erected on portions of the estate, and in the general freshness of all the surrounding objects.

Arriving at Kilmuckridge, the traveller becomes struck with the appearance of the handsome Protestant church, a modern edifice in the later English style, enriched by a neat tower. This fine house of worship and the residence of the rector, being situated on an eminence north of the village, show to great advantage. The nice Catholic church and the house of the parish priest, the Rev. James Sinnot, are located in a sheltered situation immediately south of the village. The church consists of a nave and south transept; the house standing on that portion of the ground north of the church which corresponds with the space occupied by the transept on the south. The handsome area in front of the church, enclosed within a neat boundary wall, and surrounded by trees of richness and beauty, is appropriated to a cemetery; while the space in front of the house is formed into fanciful flower beds, which are carefully attended to, and furnished with plants and flowers in great variety. Such evidence of taste and refinement, so delightful in any situation, is peculiarly pleasing when seen in the vicinity of a place of worship, and in that of the depository of the dead. There are a few good houses in the village, but the majority of them are plain. Three fairs are held here in the course of the year. Diverging to the north from this village, the tourist, at the distance of two miles, will arrive at Wells, the splendid seat of Robert Stephen Doyne, Esq., a truly magnificent place; the bright lawns and spreading meadows of which are of great extent, and are surrounded and interspersed with trees of the largest growth and greatest beauty. The mansion, which is in the Tudor style of architecture, is constructed of fine brick, with quoins and edgings of nice granite, and in its general appearance greatly resembles some of the grand buildings of the same style which are to be seen in the neighbourhood of London and Bristol. At the southern extremity of the grand demesne is situated the new and beautiful Protestant church of Kilnemanagh, which is in the enriched Gothic style, and consists of a nave and chancel, with a handsome belfry on its western gable. The quoins, door-jambs, window-edgings, belfry, and other ornamental dressings, are of pure granite, which, together with the style so judiciously adopted, give it an unmistakable and perfectly church-like appearance.

The tourist will next arrive at the village of Oulart, a straggling

small place, consisting of two detached streets, that on the north being called Chapel Street, or Great Oulart, and that on the south, Fair Street, or Little Oulart. The Roman Catholic church is an edifice of long standing and cruciform character, which shows evidence of the solicitude entertained by the parish priest—whose neat residence is in its immediate vicinity—to preserve and uphold the characteristic dignity so becoming a house of worship, as well as to provide for the comfort and convenience of a large congregation. But, with all the care and attention bestowed upon upon it, in its general character it is very far behind many of the churches of the same persuasion in the neighbouring parishes, and therefore must, in order to keep pace with the progressive spirit of the times, be very soon replaced by a building of more lofty and commodious proportions. The school, which is in connection with the National Board of Education, is held in the house formerly occupied by the parish priest, in the rear of the ancient and popular burial-ground of the parish.

In this section of the village are situated the constabulary barracks and the post-office; and in its vicinity the dispensary, and the new and very handsome house, in the Elizabethan style, which has been recently built as a residence for the medical gentleman in charge of the institution. Although being in the immediate vicinity of the scene of the first act of the melancholy drama whose tragic character stained the annals of the unfortunate year 1798, I resolved to avoid entering on a detail of the progress of the civil strife and warfare of which it was the sad precursor; nor, indeed, is it necessary that I should do so, as the generality of my readers are sufficiently familiar with the melancholy consequences that resulted therefrom. Besides, as most of the actors in its stirring events are now at rest, it is by no means my wish to remove the veil of oblivion which a generous and charitable feeling on all sides would seem disposed to draw over it. Arriving at the summit of the hill, by a lane which opens at a short distance in the rear of the village, the visitor will obtain an extensive and truly magnificent prospect, which embraces within it the whole area of the county, with its encircling hills and lofty mountains, and many of the fine mountain groups of the county of Wicklow; and also the extensive line of sea-coast from Courtown to Greenore Point, with the town of Wexford, which appears on the confines of a low champaign country. At a short distance beneath the north side of the hill appears the Protestant church of Kilcormuck, a neat edifice, with a handsome pinnacled and embattled tower. The new and lofty Roman Catholic church of Boulavogue, and that of the parish of Monageer, also fall under observation from this commanding eminence.

Proceeding from Oulart by the line of road leading to Enniscorthy, the tourist will fall in with the small village of Ballaghkeen, which is situated at the foot of a finely-cultivated and richly-planted hill, and will notice the small Catholic church, which is an out-chapel of the parish

of Oulart. It is a very remarkable structure, somewhat in the form of the letter L inverted, with the altar standing in the angle. About half a mile from this village, on the townland of Slievenagrane, or the "Hill of Trees," is situated a fine spring, the Irish name of which signifies Mary's Well, that from time immemorial has been looked upon with great veneration by the people of the district, and to which pilgrimages were wont to be made on certain days in the year. This clear and powerful spring forms the source of the river Sow, which, after passing through an open valley, assumes at the village the appearance of an important stream, that becomes enlarged in its progress to Eden Vale, below which it falls into the Slaney.

The tourist, proceeding from this place to the sea-shore, will notice the Protestant church of Castle-Ellis, which stands within the ancient churchyard, and is a neat modern edifice in the later English style, with a light pinnacled tower at its western end, and an ornamental pinnacle on each of its angles, as well as on the apex of the eastern gable. It is entered by a door in the north and south sides of the tower, and is furnished with a handsome Gothic window in the eastern end, with three of the same character, but of smaller size, in each of its sides. About midway between the church and the glebe-house, which stands upon an eminence about a furlong from the cemetery, and at the entrance of a small valley enriched with fine plantations, is situated the celebrated spring called St. John's Well, long considered a venerable object, where, on the 23rd of June, that saint's eve, when the people of the district congregate to dress the graves in the churchyard, they visit the holy well, and invoke the intercession of its patron for the repose of their deceased friends. An old ash tree, the growth of ages, whose slightly inclining trunk rises immediately above its eastern margin, forms a most interesting feature, and carries the mind of the visitor back to the time when, centuries ago, some pious hand planted it. Its outstretched, hoary, and partially denuded branches continue, in their old age, as well as in their vigorous maturity, to afford shelter and protection from the passing storm, or from the fierce rays of the summer's sun, to those who offer up their unsophisticated orisons beside the pellucid and venerated spring.

Advancing from this interesting place to the village of Blackwater, the tourist becomes struck with the demesne of Castle Talbot, the property, and, until within a comparatively recent period, the residence, of a branch of the great Shrewsbury Talbots, whose immediate representative, Major Talbot, lately deceased, was a claimant for the title and estates of the late Earl of Shrewsbury, in the celebrated case recently decided by the House of Lords in favour of Earl Talbot, now the Earl of Shrewsbury. The mansion, a modern edifice of three stories in height, is at present in a neglected state; and the demesne, which comprises about 200 acres, is in the occupation of an opulent tenant farmer. This ancient seat is rendered strikingly conspicuous, and comes under the traveller's notice from a considerable distance,

by reason of the tall and somewhat slender castle which stands upon an eminence at some distance from the house. This building, which is of the ordinary class of defensive structures so frequently to be met with in this part of the country, was some years since improved, and its summit surrounded with embattled ornaments, which give it a fresh and comparatively modern appearance. On a part of the demesne is a holy well dedicated to St. Bridget, the water of which has been long considered efficacious in the cure of sore eyes and other diseases.

Arriving at Blackwater, which takes its name from the river that flows beneath the handsome bridge of two capacious arches in the centre of the village, the visitor becomes struck with its improved appearance, many of the houses being of recent erection, and of a size not often seen in a place of its class. Woollen manufactures, on a limited scale, were established here some years since by the Messrs. Tobin, two respectable and enterprising brothers, natives of the district; which must, as a matter of course, have a tendency to improve the village and the surrounding neighbourhood by the employment afforded to the people. The Catholic church, situated within a modern cemetery, in which are some handsome tombs, south-west of the village, is a commodious cruciform structure, upon which considerable improvements have been lately made, both externally and internally, whereby it has been rendered a very fine house of worship. The residence of the parish priest immediately adjoins it; and the new school-house, which is in connection with the National Board of Education, with accommodation for boys and girls, is situated at the entrance to the cemetery. The small ancient churchyard of Killala, in which is the vault of the Talbot family, is situated midway between Castle Talbot and Blackwater. At a short distance from the village, which is about nine miles from the town of Wexford, is one of the ancient raths so common to this country. There are five fairs held here in the year.

Proceeding from Blackwater to Ballyneesker, the traveller will notice the remains of an ancient church in the churchyard of Ballyvaloo, the side walls and western gable of which are still standing. Ballyneesker, the name given to the strand and adjoining lands, which lie south of the promontory called Blackwater Head, and between the sea-shore in its vicinity and the hills and strand of Curracloe, is a popular bathing place, where several handsome lodges and neat cottages have been erected, which are occupied during the season by respectable families.

West of Ballyneesker, and south of Curracloe, is situated the village of Screen, where there are a very handsome Catholic church and cemetery, and also an ancient burial-ground, still much used as a place of interment. In the centre of the clean and comfortable village is a large and very fine school-house under the National Board of Education. This part of the country, especially that portion near the sea-shore, may be likened to the appearance of the sea when agitated by a violent storm; its surface consisting of alternate hill and hollow,

bearing a strong resemblance to the waves of the ocean. These hills are composed of a light and sandy soil covered with a thin and scanty herbage, upon which sheep graze, but never fatten. Manure is at a remote distance from them, but even were it in comparative proximity, the great difficulty of drawing it through the friable sandy ground, and over the undulating hills, would render it almost useless. Oats are sometimes grown on portions of these elevations, but the yield is so trifling that the occupiers are deterred from resorting to the culture of them as a crop. Potatoes, even, with a slight manure, are much more remunerative; and, until within the recent years of failure, were successfully grown on many parts of them. Lakes of small size have been formed in the bosoms of some of these hills; one of which, called the Doologue, that has been successfully drained, yields turf of good quality in reasonable quantity. Another, somewhat smaller in size, called Loughnabestia, being of circular form, presents the appearance of a comparatively small quantity of water in a large basin, the encircling hills rising some 60 feet above the surface and the margin of the reservoir, which is nearly a quarter of a mile in circuit. There is a remarkable peculiarity connected with this lake, which is, that in snowy or rainy weather its surface is known to sink considerably, and in dry weather to rise in a like proportion. In seasons when drought is most prevalent, and the want of moisture generally felt as an inconvenience, the water in this anomalous reservoir is found to be at its highest point. At some distance from this lake is another, called Hatchell's Lake; and, in the immediate vicinity of the Doologue, one called Ponleshal, on the margin of which turf, in small quantity, is raised. The two latter are of comparatively small dimensions.

West of these inland basins are situated Kilmacoe House and demesne, formerly the seat of Cadwallader Waddy, Esq., M.P., and now in the ownership of Matthew Walsh, Esq., of Dublin and Wexford, who, some years since, became the purchaser, under the Incumbered Estates Commission, of this delightful residence and the lands appertaining thereto. Great improvements have been carried out by the new proprietor, whereby the house and grounds have been refreshed and beautified; while a vast amount of employment has been given to the tenants and occupiers on the estate, and the land in general highly manured and enriched. The salutary effects of this liberal expenditure of capital are perfectly discernible in the splendid appearance of the house, and the elegant parterre which extends before the south front; while the fruit and vegetable gardens, which are situated at the western extremity of the handsome lawn, display equal evidence of taste and care. The herds of cattle and flocks of sheep which are to be seen on the adjoining lands, and the flourishing crops of corn and turnips that are produced upon portions of them, afford abundant proof of their fertility, and of the substantial advantages which result from a spirited and judicious application of manure.

The small Catholic church of Kilmacoe, which is also an out-chapel of the union of Castlebridge, has recently undergone extensive alteration and repair. The original edifice, which was of plain oblong form, has been raised so as to correspond with the new transept, and now constitutes the nave of a neat cruciform building, the vestry being in the rear of the transept, and the western apex of the nave crowned with a belfry, containing a good bell. Curracloe House, the handsome seat of the late Colonel William Toole, second son of the late William Toole, Esq., of Edermine, in this county, is situated on the sea-shore, south and east of Kilmacoe. This gallant officer, who was as gentle as he was brave, served with distinction in the Peninsular campaign, and received a severe wound at the storming of Badajoz, from the effects of which he never perfectly recovered; and, therefore, at a comparatively early age, was obliged to retire from the service. Though prevented from following his honourable profession, he for very many years lived upon his property in this part of the county, beloved by his grateful and attached tenantry, to whom he was the best and the kindest of landlords, and died, universally regretted, in the autumn of 1859.

The southern part of the parish of St. Margaret's, in which Curracloe is situated, terminates in the headland called Raven Point, which forms the north side of the entrance to the harbour of Wexford. It is said that the sea has made encroachments to the extent of a quarter of a mile upon this part of the coast within the last century. In attestation of this assertion, we find that the ancient church of Curracloe was washed away many years ago; and that a castle, which stood on a part of the land adjoining the sea-shore, was taken down several years since. It is more than probable that the removal of this castle was superinduced by the same cause which led to the destruction of the Martello tower that stood on the opposite or Rosslare side of the mouth of the harbour, namely, the encroachment of the sea. The tower just mentioned was erected for defensive purposes at the period of the threatened invasion of this country by the French, under the great Napoleon, and stood far above the high-water mark; but from the extensive encroachment of the sea at this point, it was undermined and rendered entirely useless, being split from the basement to the summit. That portion of it which rose above the surface was removed, by the direction of the government, within the last forty-six years, but the large blocks of granite that constituted the foundation are still to be seen near the water's edge; while the stones which stood in front of the battery were engulfed, and the waves flow with unrestricted force, even at the low-water time of the tide, far above the site upon which they were built. When such changes have been effected by the insidious action of the water so far above its apparent flow, we can scarcely feel surprise at the changes which occasionally take place in the channel or tide-way which forms the entrance to the harbour.

Having somewhat carefully glanced at the most important portions of my native county, with the exception of the south-western part of it, which I have reserved for my visit to Ross, on my route to the south of the island, it affords me the greatest satisfaction to be enabled to state, that the most decided improvement is quite apparent in every part of it, and that the habits and manners of the people in general afford unmistakable evidence of a change for the better. Nor is this salutary change confined to one particular portion of the community, but extends itself throughout the various grades of society. For while the humbler class abstain from the degrading vice of drunkenness, and no longer violate the sacredness of the Sabbath by resorting to places where their health and their morals are endangered, we find the farmers and substantial yeomanry of the country employing their thoughts and using their best exertions to improve the breed of their stock, and to increase the fertility of their farms, by the application of well-selected manures, and not unfrequently bearing off the prize from their competing landlords, who are nothing loath to be beaten by them. Nor is the improvement less apparent in the junior members of the aristocracy, who, I rejoice to say, are very numerous in our favoured county, where it is exceedingly difficult at present to obtain a seat fit for the residence of a gentleman of even moderate fortune. The decided improvement as regards this important class is manifested in their increasing love of home and home enjoyments. Cricket and archery-clubs have been established in the county; the former, together with the exciting amusement of the hunting-field, affording manly and healthful exercise to the gentlemen; while, in the elegant and interesting use of the bow, the ladies become participators with them, many of whom, by their natural advantages and judicious training, display a dignity and grace while discharging their arrows, such as painters love to portray in their finely-conceived representations of the allegorical goddess of the chase. By the delightful reunions that grow out of these associations, the young men of the county are induced to remain at home, and are thereby saved from the allurements which, not unfrequently, entice persons of their age and circumstances into habits prejudicial to their independence and their health. The ladies of this county are very partial to exercise on horseback, and, accordingly, in the narrow streets of the good old county town, groups of fair equestrians are frequently to be seen, upon whom the experienced frequenter of Rotten Row, at Hyde Park, London, might turn his critical eye, and gaze with admiration on such specimens of graceful loveliness as could not be surpassed in that celebrated resort of England's aristocracy. Notwithstanding the disadvantages under which we labour from the confined entrance to our harbour, and the want of railway accommodation, it is exceedingly gratifying to know that, at the present time (the spring of 1862) there are not less than thirty new houses being erected in various parts of the town, which are in a forward state.

CHAPTER XIX.

NEW ROSS, WATERFORD, TRAMORE, AND CARRICK-ON-SUIR.

PROCEEDING from Wexford to Ross, the traveller, after passing the beautiful grounds of Barntown Cottage, with the adjoining ancient castle already alluded to, will obtain an excellent view of the fine Catholic church of Barntown, one of the most perfect and beautiful edifices of the kind to be seen in any rural district in Ireland. It is of recent erection and admirable proportions, in the pure Gothic, or Pugin style of architecture, and consists of a nave and side aisles, which are fitted up and furnished in the most chaste and elegant manner. The splendid chancel window, which is of five lights, and delicate head tracery, excites in an especial manner the admiration of the visitor; the fine west window is perfectly in keeping with it; while the end and side windows of the aisles, which are of two lights, are also entitled to his favourable notice. The grand door in the western end of the church, with its recessed and deeply-moulded arch; the summit of the gable, with its double belfry and choice pair of bells; and the eastern gable, with its finely-wrought characteristic cross, together with the appropriate sacristy and vestry, being all in perfect harmony with each other, give a finish and completeness to the well-designed and equally well-executed building. The neat residence of Dean Murphy's curate, and the commodious school-house, which is in connection with the National Board of Education, are situated at a short distance from the church.

Proceeding by this line, the tourist will soon arrive at the village of Taghmon, a place of considerable antiquity, and formerly an incorporated and parliamentary borough, which is a parish in the barony of Shelmalier-west, nine statute miles from the town of Wexford. It is said to have derived its name from St. Mun, who, as we are informed by ancient writers, including the "Annals of the Four Masters," founded an abbey here for Friars of the Augustinian order, towards the close of the sixth century. We are likewise told that this monastery, which was plundered by the Danes in the year 917, was subsequently granted by Dermot MacMurrough, the last King of Leinster, to his abbey of Ferns, and that the charter by which it was conveyed is still extant. While here the visitor may see in the cemetery, within which is the Protestant church, a very remarkable

ancient cross, which stands embedded in a massive pedestal that, like the cross itself, is of coarse granite, about 5 feet square at the base, and 4 feet in height, diminishing slightly towards the top, from which springs the shaft to a height of 5 feet, thus making the height of both members 9 feet from the level of the churchyard to the head of the cross, which is enclosed within a circular band, and ornamented with sculptured figures of plain character. The church, which stands a few yards south of this antique relic, and is supposed to occupy the site of the old abbey church, is a neat edifice in the later English style of architecture, of about forty years' standing, with a pinnacled and embattled tower.

A massive quadrangular tower of about 30 feet square and 63 feet in height, which is all that remains of an ancient castle that formerly belonged to the Talbots, Lords of Wexford, stands a few yards north of the church and cemetery. This remnant of antiquity, which was strengthened with granite quoins, and its summit embellished on the north and south angles by circular turrets, is still in tolerable preservation, and affords unmistakable evidence of the former importance of this place. A few perches south of the church and cemetery is the more popular burial-ground of the district, where some dozen rude stone crosses of considerable antiquity, the inscriptions of which are nearly obliterated, stand as headstones to some of the ordinary graves. Near the north-eastern angle of this churchyard, in an adjoining field, are portions of the foundation of an ancient building, consisting of large stones which rise above the surface of the ground. The building which formerly stood here, and is supposed by some of the inhabitants to have been a nunnery, may, in reality, have been the monastery originally founded by St. Mun or Munnu, the patron saint of the town. In the north-western part of the town is the Catholic church, which, with the residence of the venerated parish priest, the Rev. Loftus Brennan, is situated within a handsome area, which is ornamented with spreading trees, and surrounded by a protecting wall of moderate height. The church is of cruciform character and long standing, and, for a place of such importance, must be considered of plain and ordinary appearance. It would, doubtless, before this time, have been replaced by one more in accordance with the progressive spirit of the age, but that the good pastor felt reluctant to call upon his parishioners, who, not many years since, contributed to the erection of a new church at Carroreigh, near Camross, where, as we are informed, St. Abban, son of Cormac, King of Leinster, founded an abbey during his father's reign. Still more recently the spirited people of the liberty subscribed liberally towards the extensive repairs and restorations which Father Brennan deemed it necessary to make on the church dedicated to the Holy Trinity, at the village so named, in the opposite or southern extremity of the parish, near the western termination of the mountain of Forth. A school in connection with the National Board of Education is situated in the

immediate vicinity of the church; and one in connection with the same board, for girls, is located in the south-eastern extremity of the village. A school for a limited number of pupils has long been supported here, under the direction of the Protestant incumbent. There are no manufactures carried on here at present, and the town is therefore chiefly dependent on the business which arises from its numerous fairs, of which there are twenty-three in the year. There are a few good shops in the town, which appear to command a remunerative business; and the surrounding lands are rich and fertile. Of the ancient corporation of Taghmon little is now known; but the town continued to send two members to the Irish parliament until the passing of the Act of Union, when it was disfranchised. Harpurstown, the property and occasionally the residence of Walter Hore, Esq., is situated in this neighbourhood. Passing onwards from this place, several handsome seats present themselves to the traveller's notice, including Horetown, the rich and beautiful residence of Strangman Davis Goff, Esq., upon the lawn of which has lately been erected a very handsome Protestant church; Raheenduff, which displays a remarkably fine appearance; Coolcliff, lately the residence of Sir William Cox; Slevoy Castle, the seat of Captain George Powell Pigott; and Longgraigue, the seat of Counsellor Deane.

Arriving at Carrickburne, the tourist will at once perceive that the hand of improvement is rendered quite apparent, it being agreeably manifested in the uniform regularity of the roads, and the nicely kept slated cottages of the peasantry. Carrickburne Lodge, the handsome seat of the improving proprietor of this property, Richard Clayton Browne Clayton, Esq., is situated in the midst of extensive and rich plantations, near the eastern foot of the rugged hill, and is a modern edifice in the Elizabethan style; a style which characterises the very nice school-house and the several pretty cottages of the tenants on the estate. Some years ago, this excellent gentleman, for the embellishment of his property, was induced to plant about 150 acres, which comprise, for the most part, the base, sides, and summit of the barren rock of Carrickburne; and it is exceedingly gratifying to find that the trees, which are chiefly of the fir species, are healthy and vigorous, and are likely at no distant period to cover with their green foliage the projecting crags of the ungenial mountain. The nice residence just mentioned, as well as Carrickburne Hill, is situated in the parish of Newbawn, which is partly in the barony of Bantry, but chiefly in that of Shelmalier-west. In the Roman Catholic divisions it forms the head of a union, out-chapels of which are situated at Adamstown and Raheen.

The Catholic church of Newbawn is a handsome cruciform structure of comparatively modern erection, situated near the foot of the rugged mountain already mentioned, which attains an elevation of 2,000 feet above the level of the sea. In this parish are some of the ancient raths, or earthworks, so frequently to be seen in this country.

On the lands of Newbawn, now in the possession of Tobias Rossiter, Esq., are the remains of an ancient castle, supposed to be of Anglo-Norman erection; and on those of the late Peter Sweetman, Esq., in the old churchyard, are the remains of the ancient church of the parish. In the adjoining parish of Adamstown, which is situated in the barony of Bantry, is a handsome Protestant church, with a square tower decorated with embattled ornaments. The Catholic church of this place is a spacious edifice, with a tower about 56 feet high. In the adjoining churchyard, or burial-ground, is a curious cross, supposed to be of great antiquity. Here likewise are the remains of an ancient castle, consisting of a tower in the centre of a spacious quadrangle surrounded by a massive wall, the angles of which are flanked with turrets. This castle was erected by Nicholas Devereux, and his wife Katherine, the armorial bearings of whose family, emblazoned on a shield, with an appropriate Latin inscription, appear above the gateway.

A very remarkable object arrests the traveller's attention in the vicinity of Carrickburne, which is a handsome granite column that rises from a rich pedestal based upon a rocky eminence in the centre of a circular plantation. This nice column was erected by the late General Browne, father of the present owner of the estate on which it stands, to commemorate the triumph of the British arms in Egypt, where he served under the renowned Sir Ralph Abercromby, who fell in the moment of victory. This fine testimonial, erected by a brave Irishman, himself an officer of fame and distinction, to perpetuate the glory of our arms and the death of a lamented and illustrious general, will serve as an undying monument of the ardent attachment of General Browne to his profession, and of his chivalrous devotion to his great commander. The Crimean Heroes' monument at Ferry Carrig bears testimony to the bravery of a scion of the house of Browne, as the only son of Mr. Browne Clayton, and the grandson of General Browne, was one of the many blooming members of our aristocracy who fell in that victorious but still disastrous campaign; and who, like his juvenile companions in arms, Houghton, Nunn, Richards, and Hutchinson, the pride and hope of their respective houses, sealed with his heart's blood the record of his bravery and valour on the ensanguined field of Ballaklava or Inkerman. At Old Ross, which is about four miles from its maritime namesake, stood a strong castle, which in former days was the residence of the MacMurroughs, Kings of Leinster. Of this castle which, as we are informed, was rebuilt by Isabel, daughter and heiress of Strongbow, and wife of William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, there are now no remains. In this parish, which is designated St. Mary's, is a Protestant church of plain character. At Palace, the handsome seat of Samuel T. Harman, Esq., also in this parish, stood a castle, which was one of the strongholds of some of the native chieftains of the district. In the Roman Catholic divisions, this

parish is included in the union of Cushinstown, within which there are three churches, one at Rathgarogue, one at Cushinstown, and the other at Tallerath. The residence of the parish priest is situated in the immediate vicinity of the first of these churches. Approaching the town of New Ross, the tourist becomes struck with the fine house and demesne of Talbot Hall, so called after John Hyacinth Talbot, Esq., for many years the highly popular and truly liberal representative in parliament for the borough of Ross, during which period he made it his principal residence. Ross may be called a good business place, its maritime capabilities, which for many years were, to a certain extent, overlooked or neglected, being latterly more fully developing themselves; while several large ships have been added to the port within the last twelve or fourteen years. The vessels in general are of a large class, and are chiefly engaged in the American trade. Great advantages to the mercantile business of the port have resulted from the Harbour Bill, which was introduced and carried through the House of Commons by John H. Talbot, Esq., and whose interest and influence were mainly instrumental in securing its passage through the House of Lords. This ancient town is situated on the eastern bank of the river, and may be said to extend nearly a statute mile from north to south, independent of the extensive suburb called the Maudlin's or Irishtown, which, branching from the northern extremity of it, extends to nearly a similar distance in an easterly direction. A considerable portion of the town is situated on the side of an acclivity that rises, somewhat precipitously, above the principal or main street, which runs parallel with the river, and, from the peculiarity of its position, can be seen to great advantage, for several miles, from the Kilkenny side of the river. From the centre of the town spacious and uniform streets branch off at right angles, impressing the stranger with favourable notions of its regularity. Here a building of handsome proportions was, many years since, erected. It displays a prepossessing front on both of the sides that face the principal streets. The under portion, which was formerly used as a market-house, has recently been enclosed, and reading-rooms established within it. The upper story is appropriated to a town-hall, and other offices of a public nature. Here the commissioners under the Towns' Improvement Act hold their meetings; while a commercial news-room is also established in one of the chambers in the upper part of the building. The town is exceedingly well governed, and the health of the inhabitants sedulously attended to; it being well supplied with water and lighted with gas. In this part of the town is a neat shambles; and on the quay near the bridge a small fish-house, where salmon and other fish, which are sometimes taken in large quantities in the river, are exposed for sale. Markets are held on Wednesday and Saturday, but the principal market, which is largely attended, is that held on the latter day; there are thirteen fairs in the year.

The Protestant church of the parish, a fine large oblong building with a plain square tower, stands within the extensive churchyard of St. Mary's, and occupies the site of the nave of the ancient church formerly called Christ's Church, which was originally a conventual church dedicated to St. Saviour. The walls of the chancel and transepts, the adjoining remains of the magnificent cruciform church, are still in fine preservation, and afford evidence of the enriched style of the thirteenth century. The noble and lofty arches of the nave and transepts are entire, and command the admiration of the visitor; as do the end windows of the chancel and transepts, which are of triplet character, the head of each compartment, like all the other windows of the building, being of the rounded style. The internal borderings of the arches of the principal windows are enriched with elegantly wrought decorations in the Romanesque style; and the apex of the gable of the chancel is surmounted by a fine characteristic cross. In the north transept is an ancient tomb, on the upper part of which is a finely carved full-length figure of a lady, which is somewhat defaced by the rude and deteriorating hand of time. The costume of the figure is indicative of the style befitting a personage of high rank; while the gauntlet gloves would lead to the supposition that she whom it was intended to represent was looked upon somewhat in the light of a heroine. This is said to be the sepulchral monument of Rose Macruim, the reputed foundress, according to tradition, of the town of Ross, who has been stated by some writers to have been the daughter of a Danish prince or king. Camden, however, attributes the foundation of the present town to Isabel, daughter of Strongbow, whose husband, William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, held it in right of his marriage with her. Within the ruins is also to be seen the family vault of the Butlers, Earls of Mountgarret. Beneath the south transept is a large open space leading to subterranean vaults, which at present are partially choked up with rubbish. Some of the old inhabitants state that these excavations were of considerable extent, and in their early days were said to have had a communication with the river. The church of the Friars of the Augustinian order, which stands on an elevation north of the Protestant church of St. Mary's, just mentioned, is a fine new structure, with an ornamental tower surmounted by a neat spire. The convent of the pious brotherhood immediately adjoins the church. It appears that a convent for Friars of the Franciscan order was founded here by Sir John Devereux, in the early part of the reign of Edward I. Priory Street, in the south part of the town, may be supposed to have derived its name from this monastery, of which there are at present no remains.

The Catholic church of the parish is situated in South Street, near Priory Street, and is a handsome square building, of some sixty years standing. It shows its front to the street, from which the intermediate area is separated by a light iron railing; and with its finely-arched centre and side doors, and handsome round-headed windows,

may be said to partake of the Italian style of architecture. It is in contemplation to erect a new church for the Roman Catholic parishioners, this being considered too limited in size for their proper accommodation. In the southern extremity of the area in front of the church is situated a temporary wooden belfry, in which hangs a powerful bell. The house of the parish priest, and the school, which is in connection with the National Board of Education, are situated in the immediate vicinity of the church. In the large mansion of the Tottenham family, nearly opposite this church, was, some few years since, established a convent of the self-sacrificing and devoted Sisters of Mercy; Mr Tottenham, the landlord of the town, and the representative of the borough, having generously granted it to them on a long lease, and at a moderate rent. In this part of the town, within the last fifteen years, a small church, or chapel of ease, for Protestant worship has been built, and is a neat edifice in the later English style of architecture, with a belfry rising from the summit of its western gable. But by far the most remarkable feature in Ross, or its neighbourhood, is the nunnery of the Sisters of the Carmelite order, which, with its nice school and beautiful chapel, finely situated on a handsome elevation above the town and the magnificent river, is at once an imposing and interesting object. The chapel displays a richly-decorated front, and is flanked on the north and south by the nunnery and school, both being of equal size, and of perfect uniformity, and connected by a corridor with the chapel. From the great elevation of the site, and the general richness and harmony of the institution and its adjuncts, it would be difficult to find in any locality a more striking and beautiful religious establishment. A convent of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd has been lately introduced into this town, and intended for the shelter and reclamation of that class of unfortunates who, above all others, excite man's pity. The union workhouse, with its appurtenances, forms a very conspicuous and striking feature, and is worthy of a visit from those who take an interest in the welfare of the destitute poor of the country. There is a commodious Sessions-House in the south section of the town; and also in the same neighbourhood a police-barrack, and a couple of houses of charitable foundation, in which a limited number of destitute widows are sheltered and supported. These, together with the Infirmary, Fever Hospital, the National, Nunnery, and other charitable schools, contribute to the safety, the health, and the morals of the people. There are two breweries in the town, in which porter and ale of a superior quality are manufactured. The compact Chilcomb distillery, on the Kilkenny side of the river, has not been worked for these last twelve or thirteen years. Here also branches of the Bank of Ireland and National Bank have been established; in fact, all the accessories essential to commercial enterprise and general convenience are available in this town; and hence it has been enabled to sustain itself throughout seasons of unexampled severity, and at present furnishes

gratifying evidence of returning prosperity. From that part of the quay immediately in front of the Custom House, a well-appointed steamer, admirably suited to the requirements of the port and the public, starts every morning, Sundays excepted, for Waterford, leaving at eight o'clock, A.M., and returning from that city at three P.M.

The village of Rossbercon, which is situated on the opposite side of the river, and in the county of Kilkenny, is comprised within the parliamentary boundary of the borough of Ross. Here there is a very nice Protestant church, with an appropriate residence for the incumbent; and also an old and comparatively plain Roman Catholic church, of cruciform character. The residence of the parish priest, the Rev. Michael Walsh, is situated about half a mile from the church, and is an exceedingly pretty cottage, surrounded with nice plantations, and enriched with parterres containing evergreens, flowering-shrubs, and every variety of native flowers, whose freshness and beauty impress the visitor with the most favourable ideas of the taste and refinement of this excellent clergyman. We find, that so early as the reign of Edward I., a charter of incorporation was granted to the town of Ross by Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, and Earl Marshal of England. We are likewise informed that in the year 1269, the inhabitants, in order to defend themselves against the attacks of the neighbouring chiefs, built a wall, which, it is stated, was rendered indispensable, as they were exposed and greatly harassed by a fierce and sanguinary feud, which had broken out between the Fitz-Maurices and the De Burgos. These walls, of which there are some vestiges still remaining, comprised, as we are informed, a circuit of a mile, and were defended by about 360 cross-bow men, 1,000 long-bow archers, 3,000 pikemen, and over 100 horsemen, which must be considered a very respectable force; and certainly a much larger number of fighting men than the town is now capable of furnishing under similar circumstances. Of the strength of these fortifications some notion may be formed by the specimens of the gate defences, a couple of which, until within a few years since, were still to be seen; and were originally strengthened and supported by bastions and flanking towers. One of these towers is still to be seen on the line of the town wall, near to the point where stood Bewly Gate, subsequently called the "Three-bullet Gate," from the circumstance of the three cannon shot fired against it by Cromwell, which, it would seem, was a preconcerted signal for the surrender of the town by those who were entrusted with its defence. The three balls thus discharged against the tower on this memorable occasion were found, some years after, in the walls of the gateway, and are said to be in the possession of the family of Deane, of Stokestown. The Market Gate, so called, from its leading from the town to the large open space where the market was held, and in the centre of which stood the market-cross, was the last of these remnants of defence. It was of great density and thickness. The space for the portcullis and the springings of the

arch are still to be seen, the latter being distinguished by portions of the richly-wrought clustered columns, which were of fine granite. The lower part of the shaft of the market-cross, the head or cross being broken off, may still be seen rising from the coarse and strong pyramidal pedestal, which stands in the centre of the extensive area which constituted the Fair, or Market Square.

In the latter end of the year 1267, as we are informed, a convent for Friars of the Dominican order was founded at Rossbercon, on the Kilkenny side of the river, by the Graces and Walshes, English noblemen who had settled in this part of the country. Of the various charters granted to the town of Ross, that conferred by James I. was the one under which it continued to be governed until the passing of the Irish Municipal Corporations Act, by which it was abolished in 1841. The charter granted by James II. was never acted on. The liberties of the borough under the governing charter extended a mile in every direction beyond the limits of the town, with the exception of the castle and lands of Mountgarret. The corporate lands comprised about 400 acres, which produced an income of about £180 a year. Ross first exercised the privilege of returning two members to the Irish parliament in the year 1374, and continued to exercise the same right until the passing of the Act of Union, since which period it returns one representative to the Imperial parliament. I would strongly recommend the stranger who visits Ross to avail himself of the advantage which he may enjoy in the magnificent prospect which presents itself from the elevated lawn in front of Mountgarret Castle, an extensive ruin still in tolerable preservation, which gives the title of viscount to a branch of the Butler family. Looking to the right from this point, the river Nore can be traced for a considerable distance, gliding between banks of the brightest verdure, until it forms a junction with the river Barrow, near the ferry of Mountgarret. After this confluence, the united waters swell into one great volume, and move along in proud and graceful majesty. The view to the left from the same point is pregnant with interest, the handsome bridge, and the capacious harbour, capable of accommodating ships of the largest class, forming a splendid picture. In this view are comprised portions of the counties of Wexford and Kilkenny, in which are intermingled mountain, wood, and water, that invest it with traits of sublimity and beauty rarely to be witnessed.

Few greater treats can be enjoyed in the south of Ireland than that which may be obtained by the excursionist while proceeding from Ross to Waterford by the rivers Barrow and Suir. This short trip is really delightful; and, in the summer season, the steamer leaving the quay soon after eight o'clock enables the passenger, at full leisure, to view the rich and varied scenery which skirts the banks of these noble rivers. Soon after leaving the quay, he becomes forcibly struck with the beauty and grandeur of the prospect which meets his view on every side. Mountgarret and Mount Elliot on the one hand, backed

by a portion of the Blackstairs mountain, which divides the counties of Wexford and Carlow, give an air of sublimity and beauty to the scene. Chilcomb, and the demesne of Annaghs, with its fine old castle, backed by the lofty mountain called Brandon, on the Kilkenny side, also invest it with highly interesting features; while Oaklands, Stokestown, and Piltown, on the Wexford side, graced in the background by the handsome verdant hill called Slieve-Kielter, give a finish and completeness to the whole, and, by their varied and picturesque loveliness, leave little in addition to be desired by the most impassioned or fastidious imagination.

Passing onwards, the tourist will soon arrive at Ringville, the charming seat of the late dowager Lady Esmonde, a magnificent marine villa, surrounded by a rich lawn which extends to the water's edge. Soon after, the seat of O'Neil Power, Esq., called Snow Hill, with its fine demesne and princely mansion, displays itself; while still farther on, the equally rich demesne, and highly ornamental mansion called Bellevue, the seat of Nicholas Alfred Power, Esq., challenge the attention and admiration of the beholder.

Rounding Cheek Point, the tourist becomes struck with the numerous neat cottages that abound in its vicinity, the appearance of which excites feelings of a pleasing and agreeable nature. From this point a view is obtained of the grand ruin of Dunbrody Abbey, in the county of Wexford, which is of great extent, and one of the finest remnants of its kind in this part of Ireland. The tourist should not pass without paying a visit to this celebrated specimen of early munificence and devotion, which, I regret to say, is of latter years exhibiting unmistakable symptoms of rapid deterioration and decay. On a recent visit, I felt pain to witness the ravages that the rude hand of time had committed upon it since my former visit, which was made in the year 1850. Not only had the entire of the western gable, with every vestige of its glorious window, fallen, but even the series of noble arches which divided the nave from the south aisle shared the same fate, and now presents a mass of unsightly rubbish. Some partial restorations have recently been made by Mr. Knox, the agent of Lord Templemore, whereby the four corresponding arches which divide the nave from the north aisle have been built up to their springings with ordinary masonry. Such attempts to arrest the progress of decay, however praiseworthy, have a tendency to disfigure what they cannot cure. Indeed, it would take more money than prudence would warrant to be expended upon it, to make this magnificent ruin what it was some nine or ten years ago. Hervey of Mount Maurice, the founder of this abbey, who was married to Nesta, daughter of Maurice Fitz-Gerald, and cousin to Raymond le Gros, having apportioned the greater part of his lands in this quarter between his friends and followers, erected the abbey in 1183, fourteen years after his arrival in this country with Fitz-Stephen; and soon after assumed the monastic habit, and, according to some authors, became an inmate of this monastery. Others, how-

ever, state that he became one of the brethren of Christ's Church in Canterbury, where he died, and was interred. Dunbrody Abbey was at first intended for monks of the Benedictine order, but was ultimately converted into a monastery of the more austere and rigid brethren of the Cistercian order. It must be admitted that it required no ordinary degree of self-sacrifice to enable a man of Mount Maurice's station and character to give up the world, and to retire to the seclusion of an austere monastic life; but at the time when he lived such sacrifices were not unusual, as we find many of the Irish kings and chieftains withdrawing themselves from public life to prepare for their departure to another and a better world. Among these may be mentioned Roderic O'Connor, the last monarch of Ireland, who retired to the Abbey of Cong, where he spent the last thirteen years of his life in preparing for eternity, and died at the age of eighty-two years. His body was removed from Cong to Clonmacnois, and interred in the church of that renowned place with great pomp and solemnity. The splendid church of this noble ruin, one of the most extensive and interesting in this section of the island, is in the form of a Latin cross, and is of lofty and elegant proportions, the style being that of the English or Anglo-Norman. Its external dimensions are about 200 feet in length, and 140 in breadth at the transepts, with a massive square central tower—supported on four beautiful arches—which, with its peaked angles, rises to a height of 83 feet. The arches which face the nave and chancel, being of the Pointed Gothic style, are higher than those that front the transepts. The latter, which are of the round or Norman character, are very fine. This famous abbey, which was dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, and whose abbots sat as barons in parliament, continued to flourish until the dissolution of the religious houses, when Alexander Devereux, the last abbot, entered into a compromise with the dominant powers, and exchanged his abbey for the bishopric of Ferns, to which he was appointed.

In the Roman Catholic divisions, the parish of Dunbrody, in the barony of Shelburne, forms part of the union of Sutton's parish, and Horeswood, in which is situated the principal Catholic church of the district, a handsome oblong structure in the later English style of architecture. This nice house of worship, and the neat residence of the parish priest, the Rev. John Dunne, being situated on an elevated portion of the townland of Ballinamona, can be seen as highly interesting features in the landscape. There is a school under the National Board of Education near the church. About 30 or 40 perches from the abbey ruins are the remains of a castellated building called Dunbrody Castle. At present a modernised edifice attached to, and partly incorporated with, the ivy-clad walls of the ancient keep, forms a very nice residence. Kilmanock, the fine residence of George Powell Houghton, Esq., which has lately passed into other hands, is situated at a short distance from the grand ruins of Dunbrody, and the Catholic church of Ballinamona, already mentioned.

At the handsome village of Whitechurch, in the adjoining parish of that name, is situated the Protestant church of the district, a very nice modern edifice with a neat pinnacled tower. Near Ballinamona are the remains of an ancient castle, which, from its flanking adjuncts and extensive bawn, must have been of considerable strength and importance. It immediately adjoins the comfortable residence of an opulent landholder named Foley, and is called Ballykerogue Castle. This stronghold is said to have been built by an Anglo-Norman family named Sutton, to whom Hervey of Mount Maurice gave a considerable portion of the lands which were granted to him in this part of the county. This family gave the name of Sutton's parish to this district. The ruins of several other castles are still to be seen on some of the adjoining townlands, one at Stokestown, one at Alderton, one at Priest's Haggard, and two on the Great Island.

There are several memorials of the early English settlers in this part of the county, in which may be included the Castle of Fethard, built by Hugh de Lacy, for Raymond le Gros; and that at Templetown, which formed part of the monastery of the Knights Templars, from which the village derived its name; to which is attached the present Protestant church. There is also a Roman Catholic church at Templetown, which, with that at Poulfur, belongs to the new parish that recently formed a portion of the extensive liberty of Hook. At Ramsgrange, which likewise formed a portion of the liberty of Hook, but which, under recent ecclesiastical arrangements, is an independent parish, there is a comparatively new and lofty church, with a neat adjoining residence for the parish priest. There is a Protestant church at Fethard, and also one at the village of Ballyhack, which is situated at a short distance from Arthurstown, also called King's Bay, from the circumstance of James II. having spent the last night of his sojourn in this country at that village.

Dunbrody Park, the residence of Lord Templemore, is situated in the immediate vicinity of Arthurstown, by which it is bounded on the north. The fine demesne is about a mile in length, extending to the lighthouse of Duncannon, by which it is bounded on the south. Its rich grounds, with their undulating lawns and fine plantations, are intersected by ample walks and drives, which, being at all times open to the public, constitute a very agreeable and convenient walk from Arthurstown to Duncannon.

Duncannon Fort, an apparently strong fortress, stands upon a rocky eminence that projects considerably into the broad estuary formed by the united rivers, the Suir and Barrow, from the shore of which it rises to an elevation of 130 feet. It is about seven miles from the entrance to the harbour, and eleven from the city of Waterford, and, from its position, has a great command of the entrances to the ports of Waterford and Ross. On the southern extremity, which commands the river, recent improvements have been made, whereby it has been rendered sufficiently strong to admit of nine 68-pounder Armstrong

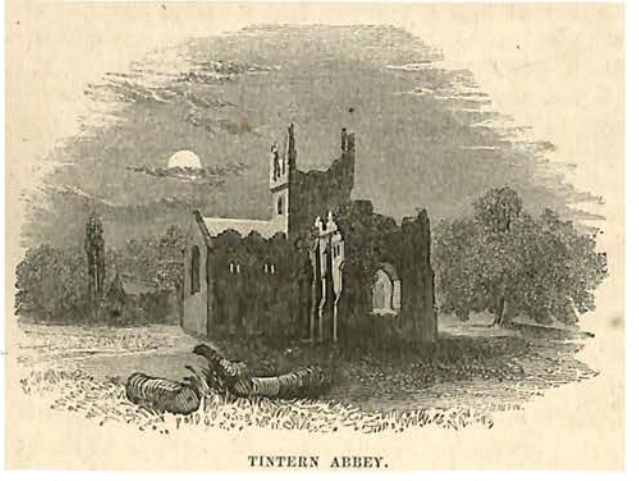
guns being placed. These guns are mounted on traversing platforms, and are supposed to be capable of throwing shot and shell to the entrance of Waterford harbour. Additional magazines and shell rooms for the storage of the ammunition for these powerful guns have also been erected. We are informed that this fort was granted by Henry VI. to John Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, from whom it reverted to the crown. The castle, with certain lands for keeping it in repair, was vested in trustees in the reign of Elizabeth. In the year 1649, it was besieged by Ireton, one of Cromwell's generals, without success, the garrison having compelled him to raise the siege after suffering considerable loss. Soon after Cromwell took possession of Waterford, however, it was surrendered to the Republican army. There is a small Catholic church in the village of Duncannon; and near to it, on the opposite side of the street, has been erected, within the last four or five years, a Presbyterian meeting-house. Protestant service is performed within the garrison.

Woodstown, the beautiful marine residence of Lord Carew, can be seen to great advantage from the fort, as the fine mansion, which is nicely situated on a gentle elevation on the Waterford side of the river, displays its rich front to the Wexford side. It is surrounded by rich plantations, and sheltered from the west, north, and south winds, by the adjoining slightly rising and encircling heights, which, together with its handsome and sloping lawn, form a splendid picture.

Leaving Duncannon, the tourist will obtain a view of the Tower of Hook, a very remarkable feature, which forms a beacon of no ordinary character for the vessels that trade along this coast, as well as for mariners in general. Standing as it does on an elevated point, it can be seen from a considerable distance, and therefore it is well suited to a lighthouse, to which useful purpose it has been converted for many years.

In the adjoining parish of Tintern are some objects worthy of attention, among which its ancient and venerable abbey is by far the most interesting and important. This abbey was founded by William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke—who, as I have had frequent occasion to mention, was married to the only child and heiress of Earl Strongbow, by his wife, the Princess Eva—and was erected in 1200, in fulfilment of a vow made by him, on his escape from shipwreck. After its endowment and dedication to the Blessed Virgin, he caused monks of the Cistercian order, from the Abbey of Tintern, in Monmouthshire, to be brought over and placed in it, and hence it obtained the appellation of Little Tintern, which name it has given to the parish that was previously called Kinneagh. After the dissolution of religious houses in this country, the abbey and its appurtenances were granted to Sir Anthony Colclough by Queen Elizabeth, in whose family it still remains. Legends and traditional stories regarding some of the heads of this ancient family have, as it would seem, been current in

former years, and have descended to our own times. The tendency of some of these tales goes to prove that, by reason of the large quantity of church property of which they became possessed, they were doomed to experience repeated crosses and misfortunes, involving in one melancholy instance loss of life. This lamentable event, according to the legend which has reference to it, was caused by the malign influence of the fairies, or, as they are sometimes designated, the "good people," whose enmity was incurred by Sir Cæsar Colclough, he having levelled an ancient rath said to have been a place to which they were



TINTERN ABBEY.

wont to resort, to hold their revels. He, it appears, was the accepted lover of the beautiful heiress of Redmond, of the Tower of Hook, to whom he was formally engaged; but having occasion to proceed to England on business of importance, he was reluctantly obliged to forego for a time her beloved society, and bade her a tender farewell; while she, on her part, promised to keep a light burning nightly in her lofty chamber to guide him on his return. The legend states that the cause of his proceeding to England on this occasion was owing to a challenge he had received from the English monarch, King William III., with whom he was on terms of what must have been considered a highly-favoured intimacy. While at the court of England some time previously, Sir Cæsar boasted much of the exploits of the Wexford hurlers, and the result was, as I have just mentioned, that the king invited him to bring over twenty-one men of his county to play a match with the famous hurlers of Cornwall. To prepare for this challenge, Sir Cæsar held a grand assemblage of the most celebrated hurlers of the district at Tintern Abbey, and selecting the best and most approved players, took them over to the English court. The king and queen, with a large assemblage of the nobility, attended to witness the match; and, out of compliment to the sovereign, the Irish were provided with yellow, or, perhaps, orange sashes, for their

waists, from which circumstance, as we are told, the men of Wexford are stilled called "yellow bellies." The Irish, as a matter of course, were victorious, and Sir Cæsar, returning in triumph, steered for the Tower of Hook, the home of his faithful and idolised mistress. But here, alas! according to the legend, the outraged and malignant fairies interposed, who, having with their enchanting music lulled the lady to sleep, and extinguished her constant and carefully-trimmed lamp, her lover was shipwrecked, and his dead body soon after borne to the shore. The disconsolate and almost heart-broken young heiress, devoting herself to a single life, and never ceasing to lament the melancholy fate of her betrothed, in order to save future voyagers and mariners in general, converted her family tower into a lighthouse, which it remains to the present day. This, and other traditional stories relative to the Colclough family, are gracefully detailed in Mrs. S. C. Hall's "Ireland," who, from her connection by family and property with this part of the county, in which in early life she resided, had opportunities of becoming familiar with the old traditions of the district. Without going farther back, however, than our own remembrance, we find events in connection with this old family which go far to verify the trite assertion that truth is sometimes stranger than fiction. These are to be found in the extraordinary circumstances connected with the career of the late Cæsar Colclough, Esq., such as, for instance, his long imprisonment in France, where, during the protracted war between that country and England, although the owner of property in this county amounting to £10,000 a year, he was constrained to earn a livelihood by the application of his mechanical ingenuity—a smattering of which he had acquired by resorting to it as a means of amusement. The fall of his only and beloved brother John, in a fatal duel with the late William Congreve Alcock, of Wilton, Esq., was another of these mysterious and melancholy visitations, calculated to aggravate the misfortunes with which this inheritor of the name and fortune of Colclough had to contend. It has been said that, owing to the grossest mismanagement, to call it by no harsher name, when Mr. Colclough returned to this country at the close of the European war, instead of finding a large sum of money to his credit arising from the accumulation of the rents of his paternal estates, he found himself actually in debt. Large sums, however, were expended by his deceased brother in contesting the county at elections, which, in order to uphold the honour and importance of his brother Cæsar and the family name, he, doubtless, felt himself justified in thus disposing of. Soon after he assumed his proper station in the county, he was returned, as the colleague of the late Lord Carew, to represent his native county in parliament. In a few years after he married and retired from public life; and from the habits of economy to which he became inured while constrained to remain in France, he curtailed his expenditure and soon accumulated a large sum of money. Not the least extraordinary circumstance in the

career of this gentleman was that which has reference to his last will and testament, which occupied the highest tribunals in the empire for a few years, and which, but for the interposition of an all-merciful Providence, would have wrested Tintern Abbey and its large estates from the legitimate representatives of this old and honoured house. The circumstances connected with the great Colclough will case, which terminated satisfactorily in the summer of 1857, are too fresh in the remembrance of the people of the county of Wexford—indeed, I might say, in the recollection of those of Great Britain and Ireland—to require a lengthened notice at my hands. Besides, it would be impossible in a work of this kind to do anything like justice to a case so voluminous in its details, which would require a large book to contain the vast amount of matter comprised in the speeches of counsel, the evidence of the numerous witnesses, and the charges of the judges and other learned functionaries before whom severally it was tried. This much, however, may be said with perfect truth, that the finding of the correspondence of the late Cæsar Colclough, at the eleventh hour, in the old press enclosed within a recess in a part of the wall of the family mansion, Tintern Abbey, was a signal instance of guardian care to uphold the principle of eternal justice in the person of the heiress of this ancient house. The papers thus fortunately discovered completely demolished the entire case of Mrs. Colclough Boyse, the widow of the testator, in whose favour, but for the finding of the papers here referred to, the issue must have been decided; the effect of which would have been to convey the whole of the property, hereditary and personal, to his childless widow, to be entirely at her disposal, to the utter exclusion of every member of his own family. The turn thus providentially given to the issue of this important case, which conveyed the family estates to the heiress-at-law, and the large personalty to the widow of the deceased gentleman, forms a favourable contrast when compared with the malignant influences mentioned in the legends referred to regarding the elder members of the Colclough family.

Tintern Abbey, now the residence of Thomas Rosborough Colclough, Esq., D.L., the husband of the heiress of this ancient place, is beautifully situated in a sequestered and delightful vale, near the margin of the bay, and in the midst of an extensive and richly-wooded demesne. The family mansion may be said to occupy the principal part of the chancel of the ancient conventual church, of which the tower and part of the walls are still standing. Notwithstanding the frequent alterations which the abbey has undergone, which, doubtless, have caused it to lose much of its original character, it still forms a picturesque and interesting feature. The village of Tintern, which stood contiguous to the abbey, was taken down about fifty years ago, and the village of Salt Mills erected in its stead, on the western side of the inlet extending from Bannow Bay, which is navigable for lighters, to the old bridge near the abbey. Fairs are

held at Tintern three times in the year. The Protestant church of the parish is situated nearly a statute mile from the abbey, and the modern bridge which leads to Salt Mills on the opposite side of the inlet. It is a neat edifice, in the later English style of architecture, with a square pinnacled tower.

Near the Abbey Bridge, and at a short distance from the gate-lodge leading to the mansion, are the ruins of an ancient church, with a graveyard, and a remarkable spring called Lady Well. In the interior of the ruined church is a monumental tomb erected to the memory of Sir Anthony Colclough, Knight, the founder of the house of Colclough, who, according to the inscription thereon, first arrived in this country in the thirty-fourth year of Henry VIII., as captain of the band of Gentlemen Pensioners, in which, as well as in other offices of state, he continued to serve during the reigns of Mary and Elizabeth, and died in the year 1584. The Catholic church of the parish is situated at Ballycullane, about three miles from the abbey, and is a spacious structure; near it are the remains of a former church and burial-ground. The residence of the parish priest, the Venerable Archdeacon Barden, and a school, under the National Board of Education, are in the immediate vicinity of the church, and grouping with it; the whole, being enriched with nice plantations, form a picturesque and very respectable rural establishment.

At St. Leonard's and Rathnagusseran, are out-chapels of the union of which this is the head. In this and the united parochial districts are some church ruins and ancient raths. A dispensary for the district is situated at Fookesmill, where there is an extensive mill, worked by Mr. Purcell, on the fine river which passes beneath a large stone bridge in the village. Mr. Purcell has recently built a handsome house, for the residence of himself and family, in the vicinity of the mill. There is a long-established hotel in this village, which in former days, before the introduction of stage-coaches and day cars, was a very respectable posting-stage, or travellers' inn. A new constabulary barrack has lately been erected here; and an extensive fair green laid out, which will doubtless confer many advantages on the neighbourhood.

Clonmines, formerly a place of considerable importance and a parliamentary borough, is also a parish in the barony of Shelburne, finely situated on the western bank of the Scar, at the north-eastern extremity of the bay, into which flows the Bannow river beneath the fine structure called Wellington Bridge. From its admirable position, its rich velvet lawns, and its glorious ruins, which consist of several distinct remnants of castellated buildings, which were designated the Seven Castles, and the remains of its magnificent church, it is eminently entitled to the traveller's attention. So early as the time of the Danes, as we are informed, a mint for coining silver had been established here; from which, as well as from the other productive mines that were worked in its vicinity and on the opposite side of

the Bannow river, it is supposed to have derived its appellation of Clonmines. To Sir Roger Sutton, a friend and companion in arms of the Anglo-Norman leaders, Fitz-Stephen and Hervey de Monte Marisco, is attributed the erection of some of the castles, the ruins of which are still to be seen here. At one time Clonmines, as we are told, was a town of considerable extent, containing twenty acres, surrounded by a vallum and fosse. It is also said to have been a place of some trade, with a harbour accessible for shipping; but the encroachment of the sand, that choked up the passage near the town of Bannow, caused the destruction of both places. We are informed that, at an early period, a convent was founded here for brethren of the Augustinian order by one of the Kavanaghs, who were descended from Dermot MacMurrough, the last King of Leinster. It has been stated by Ware, that this house was subsequently occupied by brethren of the Dominican order. In the year 1385, we find that a church was erected here, and dedicated to St. Nicholas; there is likewise a celebrated well here called after the same saint. Besides the fine church ruins, there are those called the Black Castle, one of the most important of these ancient structures; that called the Churchyard ruin, and three other castles of inferior note. The descendants of the ancient Sutton family continued in the possession of the lands of Clonmines up to a comparatively recent period; they are now in the occupation of an opulent tenant farmer. According to some writers of note, including Sir George Carew, who wrote in the time of Elizabeth, the river at this place, called the Pill, was considered the boundary between the friends and adherents of the English settlers who dwelt within its limits, and the native Irish, including the friends and followers of the Kavanaghs and Kinselaghs, who inhabited the country beyond it. The guarding of this boundary river, it appears, was deemed of such importance, that Henry IV. appointed, under patent, John Neville, Baron of Rosegarland, the keeper of it. We also find that the ancient feudal tenure by which the Hore family held their manor was the service of keeping the passage over the Pill water open as often as the sessions should be held at Wexford. We are likewise told that an Act of Parliament was passed in the reign of Henry VI., for building defensive castles upon its banks. It is not correctly ascertained at what period Clonmines was invested with corporate rights; but so early as the reigns of James I. and his son, Charles I., it was known to have possessed them, and continued to send two members to the Irish parliament up to the passing of the Act of Union, when the sum awarded as compensation for its disfranchisement was paid to the Marquis of Ely, and Charles Tottenham, Esq., of Ross, and of Ballycurry, in the county of Wicklow.

The parish of Ballylennan, along with the adjoining parish of Clongeen, where there are a handsome Catholic church and National school, is sometimes designated under the general denomination of the parish of Rosegarland, and is situated about five miles from Taghmon.

Rosegarland, the beautiful seat of Francis Augustine Leigh, Esq., is situated in the northern extremity of the parish, about a mile north and east of Wellington Bridge. The splendid demesne and grounds are of considerable extent, and are enriched with trees of long standing and great magnitude; while the adjoining rich lands and ample parks are remarkable for their superior cultivation; green cropping and every species of experimental farming being successfully carried out by the enlightened and spirited proprietor, who, in this respect, shows an excellent example to the gentlemen of his own class, and to the farmers and cultivators of the soil in general. The mansion, though presenting a handsome modern appearance, occupies the site, and, to a certain extent, is incorporated with the walls, of one of the Anglo-Norman castles or fortresses which were very generally erected in this part of the country by the first English settlers. This castle, originally of great strength, was of quadrangular shape, and flanked on each angle by a strong embattled tower, two of which were square, and two of circular form. One of the latter has been preserved, and being raised to a height of some 60 feet, affords from its summit a commanding prospect, in which are included several of the rich and ornamental demesnes that abound in this part of the county. The gardens, which comprise over seven acres, contain several rare specimens of the most valued trees, in which are included four magnificent spreading laurels, planted at equal distances from each other, so as to form a square, the luxuriant and umbrageous branches covering an area of very great extent. The ancient church has been converted into a mausoleum for the family of Leigh, who have been for a long period the owners of this enviable property.

At Tallerath, in the neighbouring parish of Carnagh, are to be seen the ruins of an ancient castle, in tolerable preservation, and also the ruins of a church, which are situated in the centre of an old burial-ground, nearly opposite the entrance to the demesne of Henry Lambert, Esq., D.L. Within the roofless and ivy-clad walls of the ancient church, which is about 40 feet in length by 20 in breadth, is the vault of the Lambert family. The first of the names inscribed on the tall mural monument, which stands attached to the chancel wall of the ancient fane, is that of Patrick Lambert, Esq., of Ballyhire, in the county of Wexford; and the next that of his wife, a daughter of the ancient house of Sutton, of Ballykeroguemore, in the said county. The first of these inscriptions bears date 1619, while the last record on the monument refers to the interment of the late Mrs. Lambert, who died in the year 1838. The last member of this ancient and honourable house whose remains have been deposited in this mausoleum was the late proprietor of the fine seat of Carnagh, which is situated in this vicinity, and in the centre of his extensive and enviably circumstanced property; he departed this life in the latter part of the month of October, 1861, as deeply regretted as he was well known and generally respected. This highly-gifted and accomplished gentleman,

who has been succeeded by his eldest son and namesake, Henry Lambert, Esq., D.L., represented his native county in parliament for several years; but, owing to adverse circumstances, he was placed at issue with some influential parties in the county; whereby he ceased to be the champion of the liberal and enlarged principles to which he was so ardently attached, in the House of Commons. It is much to be regretted that his unquestioned and transcendent abilities were lost to the public, and to the cause of a salutary reform in Church and State. But though his country sustained a great loss in his ceasing to be a member of the legislative body, his family and his numerous tenantry gained considerably by his constant residence amongst them. A new and very handsome Roman Catholic church has lately been erected on an acre of ground given as a site by the lamented Mr. Lambert, a few perches from the ancient Castle of Tallerath, already mentioned, who, in addition to the site, gave the liberal donation of £100 towards its erection.

In this neighbourhood is also situated the fine old place called Abbeyville, or Abbey Braney, where the ruins of a church and churchyard are to be seen; and at some distance from them a fine spring called Lady Well. This fine ancient place is the property, and was at one time the residence, of the Cliffes, whose representatives now reside at Bellevue; and is at present in the occupation of Mr. John Rossiter, as tenant to Anthony Cliffe, Esq.

The tourist having indulged his curiosity while passing through that part of the county which lies between the bay of Bannow and the rivers Barrow and Suir, may avail himself of the advantage afforded by the Ross steamer, which stops for goods and passengers at the Piltown station, and thence proceed to the city of Waterford, or, as it has been called, the "Urbs Intacta." Passing up the river from Cheek Point, the mansion of Nicholas Power, Esq., called Faithleg, appears on the Waterford side; and, being surrounded by a rich and extensive demesne, excites in the mind of the beholder the liveliest feelings of admiration. On the island which is formed in this part of the river stands the fine old castle, which constitutes the residence of Purcell Fitzgerald, Esq., the owner of the property. The walls and turreted peaks of this ancient stronghold are covered with luxuriant ivy, which adds a dignity and grandeur to what must be considered an interesting remnant of the old feudal times. On the Kilkenny side of the river the excursionist becomes struck with the very beautiful seat of H. P. Kelly, Esq., called Springfield. The house, which may be called a modern villa, exhibits a peculiar and striking façade, having on each extremity a semicircular projection, between which in the flat centre is the hall door. Before this front the rich verdant lawn slopes towards the river in a very attractive form, the whole presenting an exceedingly interesting picture of rural felicity. Approaching the city of Waterford, handsome villas and nice cottages become so numerous that it would be almost tiresome

to notice them in detail. The grand mansion and demesne of Newpark, however, formerly the residence of the late Sir John Newport; the finely-situated houses of the Messrs. Pope, and the height called Mount Misery, with its circular tower; together with the Abbey church on the northern bank of the river, and the fine Roman Catholic church at Ferrybank on the same side—form pictures so prominent as to arrest the immediate attention of the stranger. Waterford, in many respects, is well worthy of the stranger's notice, especially on account of its noble river, which enables ships of the largest tonnage to approach, at all times of tide, its magnificent quays; while its admirable situation, which constitutes it the natural outlet for the produce of the counties of Tipperary, Kilkenny, and its own county, invests it with advantages such as few cities or towns in Ireland can lay claim to. Notwithstanding these paramount advantages, however, Waterford, from the pressure which followed the calamitous famine of 1847, experienced a severe check, as some of its most eminent mercantile houses sustained considerable injury from over-trading in foreign corn. This depression, according to the ordinary nature of things, can be but of temporary duration; and whenever business shall receive a healthy impulse, Waterford must, as a matter of course, become a participator in its advantages. I incline to the belief that the time is fast approaching when this change, so devoutly to be wished for, will arrive—nay, in my opinion, it has partially arrived already, as in my last visit, which was made in the autumn of 1862, a considerable change for the better had taken place. Evidence of this was afforded by the great number of houses on the quay and in other parts of the city, which for a considerable length of time had been unoccupied, being now fitted up and tenanted. The opening of the lines of railway from Dublin, Cork, Limerick, and Kilkenny, has greatly increased the traffic of the port and the general business of the city; while the line constructed from Waterford to Tramore has been the cause of bringing an increased number of tourists and fashionable visitors to the neighbourhood, whereby the city must be greatly benefited. When we add to these the opening of the South Wales railway to Milford, and the extension of the line from Waterford to Dunmore and Passage, I think he is no false prophet who augurs for Waterford a proud and enviable future, as it bids fair to be the medium of communication between the South of Ireland and England. It may, however, be urged, that the coast of Wexford, being so much nearer to South Wales, is the most natural and legitimate point of communication between both countries. But it must be remembered that, although the coast of Wexford more immediately approximates to that of Wales, the difficulty of constructing an eligible harbour on that coast, and the want of unanimity on the part of the weighty and influential persons in the town of Wexford regarding the deepening and improving the entrance to the present harbour, raise obstacles even greater, perhaps, than the geographical distance between both

places. Nature appears to have made up for the difference in distance by providing Waterford with a haven of a capacious character, which, according to the report of the Commissioners on Harbours, can, at a comparatively moderate expense, be made available as a harbour of refuge; so that, in this respect, the queenly Suir is likely to compete successfully with the gentle and less obtrusive Slaney.

Waterford is beautifully situated on the southern bank of the river Suir, about sixteen miles from where that river falls into the sea, and extends principally along its margin. It occupies, for the most part, a perfectly level surface, except in the western extremity, in which there are some precipitous heights; and possesses one great advantage, that to a maritime city is of the most essential and permanent importance, which is its unrivalled quay, that extends nearly a mile in length without the slightest break or impediment, and which is of a capacious and uniform breadth. The fine quay is lined with houses of a superior description, the lower parts of which are generally appropriated to shops; while the fine flagged-way in front of them affords to the citizens a healthful and agreeable promenade. There are some good public buildings in the city, among the foremost of which is the Protestant cathedral, a fine oblong structure with a splendid tower, from which rises what may be called a heavy spire. This fine building is 170 feet in length and 58 in breadth; that part appropriated to Divine worship being 90 feet in length and 40 in breadth, and consists of a nave and side aisles, separated by ranges of elegant columns supporting galleries. The fine organ and internal decorations are of a very rich description, and constitute it a very beautiful church. Several interesting monuments are to be seen in the spacious vestib between the grand entrance in the tower, which is attached to the western end of the building, and the body of the church. On one side of this entrance is the Consistorial Court, and on the other the vestry; while above them is the library. The tower of this building cannot fail to attract the notice of the visitor, it being an elaborately wrought and very striking feature, consisting of three distinct stages, the first of which contains a fine clock. On the north side of the eastern or chancel end of the cathedral, within an iron railing, are three sculptured ancient figures, one of them that of a female, which, as well as one of the male figures, lies flat upon the ground. The third, representing a martial personage arrayed in armour, lies extended upon a raised tomb, the sides and ends of which are enriched with elaborate carving; the devices being various and highly interesting. On the opposite or southern side, lying on the surface of the ground, is a monumental flag enriched with a finely sculptured cross and other memorials of our Blessed Redeemer's crucifixion, including the crown of thorns, the ladder, the spear, the hammer, the rough nails, and other emblems of that tragical but all-saving event. This stone also exhibits the family arms of Peter Sinnott, of Waterford, merchant, who departed this life on the 10th of March, 1770. The church of St. Olave's is

situated at a short distance from the cathedral; while that of St. Patrick stands east of the city jail. These, with the nice little Abbey Church, on the Kilkenny side of the river, afford ample accommodation to the members of the Established Church. Among the antique curiosities of the city may be mentioned the crypt of the Protestant cathedral, which for a long series of years remained so far neglected as to be entirely lost sight of and forgotten. Its existence was accidentally discovered some seventeen years ago by the late Very Rev. Dean Lee, who, causing some alterations and improvements to be made in the garden of his residence, called the Deanery, which closely approximates to the cathedral, the workmen in their excavations fell in with a passage or stone stairs, which so far excited the curiosity of the good Dean as to induce him to prosecute with eagerness and vigour further excavations; and the result was, that the crypt, consisting of two extensive arched chambers opening to each other, and extending to the walls of the cathedral and beneath the kitchen of the Deanery, was discovered. The roof of this subterranean curiosity is supported by strongly-built arches springing from massive pillars of excellent workmanship. The marks of the twigs and branches of hazel and willow with which the centerings of the arches were formed are still perfectly visible, and when the excavations were first made, and the discovery rendered manifest, portions of these branches were found in a green state, but on becoming exposed to the air they mouldered into dust. Beneath a portion of the floor a vault was discovered, in which were found several human skulls and bones, which led to the supposition that this was the cemetery or place of sepulture, wherein the deceased brethren of the abbey were, in ancient times, interred. There are two entrances to the crypt, one of them by a spiral stone stairs, which is approached from within a handsome circular turret, erected by Dean Lee, in that part of the garden which immediately adjoins the house, and the other by a vaulted opening in a more distant part of the pleasure-grounds. This curiously-constructed adjunct to the grand cathedral, or to the monastery to which it originally belonged, was ventilated by apertures ingeniously constructed, and appears to have had an entrance door in that part of the side wall where there is at present a small window that looks into Bailey's New Street, a lane which leads to the quay. I was accompanied through this antique subterranean curiosity by the butler of the present dean, who also belonged to the establishment of the late Dean Lee, and who was engaged in the excavations which led to the discovery of what is considered an interesting remnant of other days. This is still a remarkably interesting locality; the cathedral, the Episcopal palace, the Deanery, the fine range of buildings known as the Widows' Apartments, and the modern church of the Franciscan Friars, investing it with a dignity and grandeur which, in all probability, were not exceeded when it was the abode of royalty in the time of Henry II. and his son, King John.

The Catholic cathedral, an extensive and very fine building in the Grecian style of architecture, is situated in Barron Strand Street, to which it displays its rich front, consisting of two stories, their finely-shaped blank windows and ornamental niches, constructed of dark granite, giving to the façade a grand and solemn appearance. A noble Ionic column rises on each extremity of the front, while, at certain stages of the centre rise pilasters of the same order, four in number, that support the rich entablature upon which stands the magnificent angular pediment. The intended portico, for which the bases of the supporting columns have been laid before the grand entrance, has never been completed; and, considering the very limited extent of the area, and its proximity to the street, it becomes a matter for grave consideration whether it would not be better to dispense with it altogether. This splendid church is of cruciform construction, the interior being large, commodious, and beautiful. The nave is divided from the aisles by columns of the Corinthian order, with highly-enriched capitals, from which spring noble arches. The groined arches of the ceilings are of the most elaborate and beautiful workmanship. The chancel, which some years since underwent alteration, is now of semicircular or bowed character, and presents a truly beautiful and graceful appearance. This portion of the church is rich in the extreme, having been embellished and decorated by the celebrated Birmingham artists under the firm of Hardman, Early, and Co. The transept and nave galleries communicate with each other, and afford excellent accommodation, the view from each of them, as well as from all parts of the church, being entirely free from obstruction. The organ-gallery, which is furnished with a fine-toned and powerful organ, is situated in the rear of the nave-gallery. A very great improvement has been effected in this part of the city by the corporation, which consists of the opening of the narrow and contracted portion of Barron Strand Street, and the removal of several houses on the west side, nearly opposite the Roman Catholic cathedral; whereby the choked-up thoroughfare has been rendered uniform and commodious, and the general appearance of the locality, as well as the approach to the cathedral, considerably enhanced.

St. John's Catholic church, in Beresford Street, is a new and fine oblong structure, with a tower at its western end, which at present is covered in with the roof of the church, with which it is on a level. It is, of course, intended, when funds shall be available for the purpose, to raise it to a proportionate height, and crown it with an ornamental cupola. The chancel is formed by a spacious apse at the eastern end of the church, and is lighted by a fine triplet window, beneath which is the richly-ornamented altar. There is a side altar in each aisle, which is divided from the nave by lofty arches, richly moulded, supported by plain piers, without capitals or other ornaments. There is no gallery in this church, with the exception of that upon which the organ is situated, which is above the vestibule or entrance in the

tower. The whole body of the church, nave and aisles included, is furnished with seats and kneeling-places, some of which are upholstered, and afford excellent accommodation. The leading characteristics of this church are those which constitute comfort combined with utility; and in its plainness and simplicity it forms a striking contrast to the ornate grandeur of the cathedral. The church of Trinity-without, which is situated nearly opposite the county jail, is a substantial cruciform edifice of ample proportions, with a square pinnacled tower, which, next to the tower and spire of the Protestant cathedral, is the most conspicuous object in the city. The Roman Catholic church of St. Patrick's parish is an oblong structure, of long standing and plain character, with a roof somewhat low for the size of the building; it is well furnished, however, and capable of accommodating a large congregation. The church of the Friars of the Franciscan order—situated, as before mentioned, in the vicinity of the Protestant cathedral—is a lofty and commodious structure, the altar being remarkably rich and beautiful, and the interior, when I paid my last visit to it in the autumn of 1861, well laid out. Considerable improvements are at present (the summer of 1862) being made on this church, under the superintendence of Mr. Patrick O'Connor, builder and general contractor, Wexford, and it will be, when finished, a very beautiful house of worship. It is in the Grecian-Ionic style, and shows an imposing front to the fine area in which it is situated, the convent of the pious brotherhood immediately adjoining it on the north. The interior, which is lofty and commodious, consists of a nave formed by handsome columns, with fine Ionic capitals, by which it is divided from the sides, or aisles. The entablature, which rests upon the capitals of the columns, presents a magnificent appearance, as do the panelled compartments of the vaulted ceiling, with their rich divisional bands. For the accommodation of the large congregation by which the church is frequented, galleries have been erected in the end of the nave and side aisles; in the rear of the nave gallery is a very fine organ. The improvements effected upon this nice house of worship, including its new and substantial roof, must have involved a considerable expense. Besides the several Catholic churches just mentioned, and the handsome church on the Ferrybank, or Kilkenny side, there are chapels attached to the several nunneries. A very handsome, and comparatively new, Scotch church is situated in the open and fashionable thoroughfare which extends from the town-hall to the entrance to Beresford Street There are likewise several places of worship for Dissenters in the city. The town-hall, a large and commodious building, is admirably situated in the most open and fashionable part of the city, and in the immediate vicinity of the Protestant cathedral. Besides the great hall, or assembly-room, the several civic offices, including the Court of Conscience, the town clerk's and chamberlain's offices, and committee-rooms, are contained within it. The grand assembly-room is occa-

sionally used for public banquets, concerts, balls, and other reunions. There are several hospitals and charitable institutions in the city, which are alike creditable to their founders, and to those who at present manage and support them.

We are informed that a monastery for Friars Minor was founded in that part of the city west of the Mall, and in the rear of Reginald's Tower, in the year 1240, by Sir Richard Purcell. After the settlement of the French Huguenots in Waterford, a part of this building was appropriated to their use as a place of worship; and hence it is still called the French Church. The tower of this building is still standing, and in the vaults beneath are several curious monuments, the inscriptions of which are so worn out by time as to be quite illegible. A gentleman named Walsh, on the dissolution of the religious houses, purchased all the possessions of this ancient monastery for the sum of £150, and founded on its site the charitable institution called the Holy Ghost Hospital, which he granted on trust to a master and brethren, for the benefit of the poor, at a nominal rent of eight shillings a year. In the thirty-sixth year of the reign of Henry VIII., the master and brethren were incorporated by Act of Parliament, which provided that the master and his successors should be appointed by the heirs of Patrick Walsh, Esq., who should nominate three or four secular priests to celebrate Divine service in the chapel of the hospital, and have the nomination of sixty of the sick and infirm of both sexes. On each side of the entrance to this building is a flight of steps leading to the apartments of the inmates, who at present consist of between forty and fifty poor widows, that appear to be deeply grateful for the shelter and accommodation afforded them. At the extremity of one of the corridors is a small chapel, with an appropriate altar, where mass is celebrated every Saturday morning. In the centre of the altar-screen, immediately above the tabernacle, is a fine representation of the crucifixion; while, on the Epistle side, is an antique carved figure of a bishop, with mitre and crosier, and on the Gospel side another saintly figure, with outstretched and upraised hands, in the attitude of fervent prayer. There are several curious antique relics here, most of which are ingeniously and finely carved, of which the poor women seem very proud, and which they take great pleasure in showing to the visitors. Among these is a splendidly-carved head of the blessed St. John the Baptist, to whom the chapel is dedicated, which is represented as it was supposed to have appeared when struck from the body by the orders of the remorseless and cruel Herod. The income of this institution, which when I paid my visit was about £500 a year, will be considerably increased ere long, as some of the leases of the houses and premises from which it is derived will soon expire, when, as I have been informed, the annual amount will be about £2,000. In the vicinity of Arundel Square, now appropriated to a vegetable market, and in the rear of some of the surrounding houses, may be

seen the tower of the church of the convent of the celebrated Dominican Fathers, or Black Friars, which was erected by the citizens of Waterford in the reign of Henry III. We are likewise told that a college of the Jesuit Fathers formerly stood in Arundel Square. The most ancient of the religious houses established here was the Priory of St Catherine, founded by the Danes of Waterford for brethren of the order of St. Augustine and St. Victor, the endowment of which was confirmed by Pope Innocent III. in 1211. This venerable abbey was situated south of the city, and remained in tolerable preservation until some thirty-five years ago, when it was removed to open a passage to the bridge over St. John's river.

The new Court House, which was erected about ten or a dozen years since, is situated on a portion of the lands which belonged to this establishment. It is a large and ornamental building, constructed on the most approved system, and contains within it all the offices essential for the convenience and accommodation of the public functionaries. Immediately adjoining the Court House has recently been enclosed a fine space of ground, comprising about a dozen acres, which has been appropriated to a public park for the recreation and amusement of the citizens. This extensive and valuable acquisition to a large and populous city, and so creditable to the civic authorities, is surrounded by a handsome boundary wall, and is entered by three separate gates, besides the entrance from the Court House, which is by a neat substantial bridge that spans the St. John's river, and connects the park with the handsome area that constitutes the Court House grounds, which are separated by the flowing stream. At the principal entrance, within a nice iron railing, which, together with the gate, is supported by six granite pillars, is a remarkably neat cottage, or caretaker's lodge. These interesting grounds are also portions of the lands which belonged to St. Catherine's Abbey. They are judiciously laid out, and intersected by commodious walks, the borders of which are fringed with flowering shrubs, and the intermediate spaces planted with evergreens and ornamental trees. When excavations were lately being made to prepare the foundations of the beautiful bridge already mentioned, large quantities of human bones were found, which leads to the supposition that this was a portion of the ancient cemetery.

In this vicinity, on what is said to have been the immediate site of St. Catherine's Abbey, has been erected a very handsome building, called the Protestant Hall, which, when I saw it for the last time, in the month of October, 1862, was entirely finished, and presented a fine appearance. It shows its rich and ornamental front, consisting of a flat centre, and beautiful flanking turrets of square character with lateral extensions, to the street and to the Court House, opposite which it is situated. It is constructed of fine brick, with richly-moulded quoins, window edgings, and string-courses of pure granite ; the summits of the towers being surmounted with bold and striking

cornices. There are three nice windows in the receding centre, whose finely-arched heads declare them to be in the Italian or Romanesque style. Above these is a fine projecting colonnade, in the centre of which stands an elegantly-wrought statue of Hope. The entrance is by a door in the inner side of each of the flanking turrets. Another ornamental feature, combining utility with beauty, was at this time being erected near the margin of the quay, immediately in front of Barron Strand Street. This is a fine drinking-fountain, constructed of nice granite, ending in a spiral ornament, in each of the sides of which, facing the cardinal points, will appear the illuminated dial of a fine clock. This desideratum, while it will minister to the requirements of that portion of the citizens whose avocations lead them to the quay, will also afford an ample supply of water to the ships resorting to the port, which were, heretofore, obliged to draw their water from an inconvenient source on the Kilkenny side of the river. The new jail, which is at present being built on the site of the former prison, is in a forward state, the works being spiritedly carried out under the direction of the clever and experienced contractor, Mr. O'Reilly. Near the station-house of the Tramore railway, the visitor will notice a portion of the ancient town-wall, with three of the defensive towers, still in a state of comparatively good preservation. The largest of these, traditionally called Turgesius's Tower, situated on an elevation at the northern extremity of Castle Street, from its great strength and commanding position, must have been deemed an important fortress. Like Reginald's Tower, which stands at the corner of the Mall, it is doubtless of Danish erection, and was pierced at various stages with apertures or loopholes. At the extremity of a narrow passage, called Murphy's Lane, nearly opposite the jail, is another tower, apparently of equally long standing, which, like its fellows, was one of the defensive adjuncts that stood on the line of the old fortified wall, which on the west or land side encircled the city. In this vicinity, at a short distance from what was called St. Patrick's Gate, are portions of the old and venerable church of St. Thomas's Abbey, consisting of a decayed gable, and some scanty remains of the side walls, the whole presenting an appearance of dreariness and unpitied ruin.

A priory dedicated to St. John the Evangelist is said to have been founded in the southern suburbs by John, Earl of Moreton, in 1185, for brethren of the ancient order of St. Benedict. A college, situated in this portion of the suburbs, and also dedicated to St. John, was erected some years ago by the Right Rev. Dr. Power, the Roman Catholic bishop of the diocese, for the education of young gentlemen for the Catholic mission. Attached to the establishment is a lay seminary for boarders and day scholars. An educational establishment, in connection with the Catholic University, was opened in this city in the latter part of the summer of 1862. There are three nunneries in Waterford—one of the Presentation order, one of the

Ursuline order, and a convent of the devoted Sisters of Mercy. Besides the Leper Hospital, founded by King John about the year 1211, it has been stated that the Poers, Lords of Curraghmore, the ancestors of the Marquis of Waterford, endowed a hospital in the same neighbourhood. Among the modern institutions may be mentioned the lunatic asylum, and a female penitentiary about a statute mile from the city on the road leading to Tramore. These, with the large number of public schools—including the district Model School, under the National Board—speak largely for the charity and benevolence of the citizens of Waterford.

It has been stated by writers of high character, that this city was anciently called Menapia, under which denomination the whole of the neighbouring district was included. This designation was, doubtless, derived from a tribe of the earliest inhabitants of this portion of the island; who, according to Ptolemy, the geographer, occupied also the district now known as the county of Wexford. Its present name, Waterford, is supposed to be of Danish origin, for, although some writers date its foundation so far back as the year 155, its antiquity as a place of importance cannot be traced beyond the year 853, when, as we are told, it was built by the Danes under their chief, Sitric. Even at this early period, it is said to have been a place of great strength, being surrounded with walls, which may have been deemed necessary to protect the colonists from the attacks of the natives. Up to the arrival of the English, as it appears, the Danish colony lived in a state of comparative seclusion, avoiding all intimate intercourse or connection with the inhabitants of the country, and preserving their ancient customs and manners unchanged.

So powerful had these northern settlers become, that their chief, Imar, laid waste the county of Kildare, and in 995 succeeded Anliffe in the occupation of the city of Dublin. This chief, who died in the year 1,000, was succeeded by his son Reginald, who built the celebrated tower which is still called by his name. This tower was erected in 1003, and is said to be the oldest of its kind in Ireland. In 1171, it was held as a fortress by Earl Strongbow; and in 1463, as we are told, a mint was established in it by Edward IV. It is still in a state of excellent preservation, having undergone considerable improvements in the year 1819, and is now used as a temporary prison for idle and disorderly persons who commit offences against the peace and propriety of the city. In 1179, as we are informed, Robert le Poer, who was governor of Waterford, and associated with Hugh de Lacy in the government of the English settlements, subsequently received a grant of the entire county of Waterford, with the exception of the city and the adjoining cantred, which had been formerly in the possession of the Danes. In the year 1447, the city, as well as the county, was granted to the Earl of Shrewsbury, who was created Earl of Waterford, with full palatine authority.

In the year 1206, King John granted a charter of incorporation to

the inhabitants of Waterford, which secured to them rights similar to those previously enjoyed by prescription. Confirmatory charters were granted by various monarchs down to the reign of James I.; but in consequence of the citizens refusing to proclaim his accession to the throne, that monarch had them served with a writ of *quo warranto*, by which the charter was virtually forfeited. However, on the 26th of May, 1626, in the second year of the reign of Charles I., it was restored by patent; and being explained and amended by a supplementary charter granted by the same monarch in 1631, continued to be that under which, in subsequent years, the city has been governed. In the year 1374, Waterford first sent members to parliament, as it would seem, by right of prescription, as no grant of the elective franchise appears in any of its charters. From that period it continued to send two members to the Irish parliament, till the passing of the Act of Union, when it was limited to a single member. However, the Reform Bill passed in the second year of William IV. restored to it its original number.

At Ferrybank, on the Kilkenny side of the river, a ship-building yard, with patent slip and graving dock, has been for many years established; while at the eastern end of the noble quay, on the city side, which is about 40 yards in breadth, a yard and extensive concerns for building iron steam vessels have been founded within the last ten or a dozen years, by the great firm of Malcomson. Here ships of large size have been built, and among others a magnificent vessel called the *Cella of Waterford*, which was launched in the month of October, 1862. This splendid specimen of naval architecture—a screw steam ship of 1,800 tons—is 300 feet in length, and one of the strongest merchant vessels afloat. When I saw her, in the latter end of October, with 700 tons of ballast on board, about to start for Glasgow to have her engines placed, her appearance, as she lay before the quay, with her buoyant hull and her four stately masts, was such as to reflect the highest credit, not only upon the city of Waterford, but even on the country at large. In each of these extensive establishments, large numbers of labourers and apprentices, as well as skilled artisans, are constantly employed.

A constant and increasing trade is carried on by a superior description of steamers between Waterford and the ports of Bristol, Liverpool, Glasgow, and Belfast; and also with Milford, Ross, and Duncannon. A fine boat was being built for the Ross trade, at the concerns of Malcomson and Company, already mentioned, and is now (the autumn of 1862) in a forward state. The annual income of the corporation at present exceeds £8,000, and expectations are entertained that it will soon be increased. The markets, which are held on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday, are abundantly supplied with all the prime necessaries of life; and fairs are held on the 4th of May, 24th of June, 25th of October, and on the first Monday of every month. There are some extensive breweries in the city, in

which are manufactured excellent porter and ale; and also several good hotels, among the foremost of which may be mentioned that of Mr. James Dobbyn, that of Mr. Power, called the Adelphi—both at the entrance to the Mall from the quay—that of Mr. Cummins, about the centre of the quay, nearly opposite the market-house, and that of Mr. Murphy, called the Waterford Arms, which is situated at the capacious and fashionable promenade called the Mall, near the town-hall.

While in Waterford the tourist will find it his advantage to pay a visit to Tramore, a very popular bathing-place, much frequented in the summer months by persons from the counties of Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Wexford, and, of course, Waterford. In former years hundreds of cars were constantly engaged in running between the city of Waterford and this healthful place, and those who were desirous of paying it a visit had no cause to complain of want of opportunities to indulge their wishes. Increased facilities are now afforded, as the trains are plying at hourly intervals on the line of railway which was opened between these places a few years since. Considerable improvements have taken place here since the opening of the railway, among which may be mentioned several handsome houses erected by Mr. Wark. These nice dwellings are situated on the side of an elevation called Rosebank Terrace, and command an excellent view of the sea. At some distance in front of these pretty houses, the same spirited gentleman has laid out another nice terrace, upon which, in the autumn of 1862, he was engaged in erecting four other neat villas. In the same vicinity a member of the Malcomson family has recently erected a very handsome house; while two other remarkably neat lodges have also been lately erected, one by Mr. Patrick Power, of Tramore, and the other by Mr. O'Reilly, the eminent builder and contractor, Waterford. Several other nice cottages have been built on a still greater elevation in another quarter of the town, which, from the fine marine prospect it commands, has been designated Atlantic Terrace. Besides these, Mr. Whelan, the proprietor of the principal hotel, a very large and well-conducted establishment, has built several handsome houses in the immediate vicinity of his own concerns, which are situated at Hotel Street, in the best part of the town. In the same vicinity is situated what has long been designated "The Terrace," whereon is a row of excellent houses, the areas before which are enclosed within neat iron railings. The Doneraile Walk, which takes its name from the noble personage who bears that title, and who is the owner of the property through which it passes, is a fine well-laid-out avenue somewhat more than a quarter of a mile in length. It forms a delightful promenade, and is therefore much frequented by fashionable visitors; and from the fine prospect it affords of the ample bay, with its bold and outstretching promontories, Brownstown Head and Newtown Head, is a really charming walk. At the extremity of this walk is the "Ladies' Cove," a sacred retreat, where the proverbially pure and beautiful daughters of this portion of

the island lave their snowy limbs. This so-called cove is a recess of horseshoe form, situated at the bottom of the high and overhanging rocks which characterise this part of the coast. Some portions of the rocks on either side project into the sea and afford comparative shelter, even in coarse and wild weather, from the roaring winds and fiercely beating surge. The sides and summits of these rocks, from the continuous action of the waves, are worn into rounded and fantastic forms, which, when viewed at low water, present an interesting appearance. The intervening sandy beach is so far shaded by the overhanging rock as to ensure the desired privacy; while it is entirely open to the influx of the virgin wave of the great Atlantic, as it rolls through this part of the bay, and which, breaking at some distance from the mouth of the secluded cove, sends the crystal foam in graceful undulations to the tiny feet of those who rush to follow its receding curl, and plunge beneath the swell of the succeeding wave. The action of the Atlantic has considerable power on this part of the coast, and in winter or very wild weather must present an appearance bordering on the sublime; even on a fine summer's day, when the flood sets inwards, the roll and sonorous roar of the sea are to a certain extent awe-inspiring. The bay of Tramore has long been considered dangerous to navigation, and precautions have been taken for the purpose of warning ships of their approach to its much-dreaded shore. A great loss of life took place here in the year 1816, when a transport ship called the *Sea-Horse*, with the 2nd battalion of the 59th Regiment on board, was wrecked in this bay; on which occasion, melancholy to relate, with a comparatively limited exception, all on board perished; the number lost being 292 men, and 71 women and children. As a proof of the wild nature of this coast, it is only necessary to refer to the recent catastrophe which took place here in the autumn of 1861, when two gentlemen were swept by the violent action of the sea off the cliff near the Metal Man, at Newtown Head, and drowned. At a short distance from the entrance to the Doneraile Walk and the Atlantic Terrace, is the cemetery, in which, some years since, was erected a very beautiful Protestant church of limited dimensions and cruciform character, in the Pointed Gothic style, with a neat tower surmounted by an octagonal spire, which rises to a height of 125 feet. In this churchyard a monument has been erected, to commemorate the loss of life which resulted from the melancholy wreck of the *Sea-Horse*, already mentioned. The greatest feature in this rising and fashionable watering-place is the splendid new Catholic church, which was opened for Divine service in 1860, and which, for its style and execution, may be ranked among some of the most beautiful buildings of the kind erected in modern times in this part of Ireland. It is in the enriched Gothic style of architecture, and consists of a nave, side aisles, transepts, chancel, and eastern chapels; with a tower, which will be crowned with a spire, standing east of the north transept, and sacristy occupying a similar position immediately east of the south

transept. Its length in the clear is 165 feet; width of nave and aisles 65 feet; transepts 103 feet by 25; height from floor to ridge 75 feet; and height of tower and spire 195 feet. The nave is entered in the centre of the western gable beneath a magnificent arch, the rich and four-times repeated mouldings of which are in the character and style of the principal or tower entrances of the Wexford churches. A splendid oriel Rose window, about 20 feet in diameter, occupies that portion of the gable which rises above the grand door, its beautiful geometrical divisions radiating from a hexagon figure in the centre. The fine entrance in the north face of the tower is enriched with side columns of various-coloured marbles, those on the outside being of the fine reddish kind from the Cork quarries; the second or middle are of the green or serpentine from Connemara; while the third or inner ones are from Armagh. From the capitals of these exceedingly delicate and beautiful columns springs the splendidly-moulded arch. The elegant porch which leads into the north aisle corresponds in style with the grand doorway of the tower, having two nice granite columns, from which rises the finely-moulded arch, on each side of the entrance. The chancel window is of five lights, the arched traceried head being filled up with various figures, consisting of cinque, quatre, and trefoils. Besides this fine window, the chancel is lighted on each side by a single lancet. In the end of each transept is a handsome triplet, consisting of tall lancet compartments, above which appears a fine Rose window of seven lights. The end windows of the aisles and the sacristy are of three lights, with handsome head tracery and label, mouldings; while those of the sides of the aisles and the clerestory are of two lights. On entering the nave by the elegant vestibule, the interior presents an appearance not unlike the Wexford churches; the fine circular granite columns, with their pedestals and capitals, being very much alike, both as regards their style and diameter. They are, however, taller than those of the Wexford churches, and consequently the finely-pointed arcade arches are somewhat smaller in size. The arches of the chancel and transepts are very lofty, and spring from clusters of four semi-columns, which present a bold and striking appearance. The grand altar is of Caen stone, with a tabernacle of fine variegated marble, with columns of Kilkenny marble resting on pedestals of the finest specimens of the reddish or Cork kind. In the centre of the altar-table is a fine representation of the Last Supper. Taking into account the limited size of the town, the visitor must feel no small degree of surprise at the spirit and energy which have been manifested by the excellent people of the district, and their zealous and pious pastor, in thus erecting a temple to the Most High, the cost of which, when entirely finished, will probably amount to the large sum of £15,000. The situation of this fine church is the most elevated and commanding in the town or neighbourhood; and therefore, when the tower, which will be of three distinct stages, shall be completed, and crowned with the graceful spire,

it will form a very conspicuous object in the surrounding landscape. On my last visit to Tramore, which was made in October, 1862, large numbers of labourers were engaged on the important works superinduced by the reclamation of the Back Strand of this place, which project has been undertaken by the great firm of Malcomson and Co.

Proceeding from Waterford to Carrick-on-Suir, the tourist should halt at Fiddown, where there is a plain Protestant church of long standing; and where each arm of the river, as it flows round the oblong island formed in the centre of the stream, is crossed by a long and substantial bridge of comparatively recent erection. Having noticed such objects as are worthy of attention at this place, he may avail himself of the opportunity thus afforded to visit the flourishing town of Portlaw, so remarkable for its manufacturing establishments, and which excites in the minds of those who have the welfare of their country at heart the liveliest feelings of pleasure. I sincerely hope that the time will soon arrive when this rising town will cease to be distinguished by its singularity as a manufacturing depôt; for, although I am bound to wish it every success as being the nucleus and centre of industrial enterprise, I hope to see the day when other portions of this part of Ireland will enter into a rivalry with it; and while they cannot rob it of its prosperity and fame, they may, to some extent, become participators in the advantages which it now almost exclusively enjoys.

This model town is of comparatively recent foundation, and may be said to owe its origin to the Messrs. Malcomson, who reside in its immediate vicinity; as within so short a period as the last thirty-six years scarcely a cabin was to be seen upon the ground upon which it stands. These enterprising gentlemen introduced the cotton manufacture, and erected buildings on an extensive scale for carrying out the interesting process. The mills were erected on the margin of the Clodagh, a deep and rapid stream which divides the town from the extensive grounds of Curraghmore. The works are carried on both by water and steam, the united force of which is equal to several hundreds of horse power. The number of persons employed in the manufacturing department is very considerable, while the several tradesmen and skilled artisans to whom the works, including the machinery, afford employment are likewise numerous; so that, on a moderate calculation, the number of people deriving a comfortable subsistence from these works, including the wives and children of those employed in them, cannot be less than 4,000. A dispensary has been established here for the benefit of the working people, and a school for the education of their children. Here also a handsome Protestant church was, some years since, erected, and, still more recently, a very handsome Catholic church. The former, which is within the town, is in the Early English style of architecture; while the latter, which belongs to the Early Gothic, is situated on a site

judiciously selected on a gentle eminence that overlooks the town, on the opposite side of the river; and from its being surrounded with stately trees, has a peculiarly pleasing and picturesque appearance. This nice church consists of a nave and side aisles, with chancel, sacristy, tower, and north and south porches. The length is 110 feet, and the breadth 60 feet; the width of the nave is 28 feet, and the aisles 16 feet. The height of the tower is about 60 feet, the spire making the total height, including the cross, 87 feet. The walls of the nave are 34 feet high, those of the aisles 14 feet, and the height from the floor to the apex of the roof, 59 feet.

There are several elegant villas in the immediate neighbourhood of the town, while in the centre of it is a row of new and comfortable houses of two stories in height, fifty in number, which are occupied exclusively by persons employed in the manufacturing works. The houses in general are neat and uniform, the whole presenting a clean and pleasing appearance. On my last visit to this interesting locality, I noticed a large and splendid mansion then being erected at some distance from the town by one of the brothers Malcomson. Immediately west of the town is the entrance to the magnificent demesne of Curraghmore, the splendid seat of the Most Noble the Marquis of Waterford, one of the largest and finest in Ireland. The mansion, a house of long standing, and therefore of comparatively plain appearance, is approached by a long avenue shaded by large umbrageous trees, and margined by a rapid river, which flows in an attractive form through a deep and picturesque valley between lofty and swelling hills, the sides and summits of which are clothed with luxuriant forest trees, which for the most part consist of the lordly oak, of mature age and fine growth. The rushing stream is crossed at certain intervals by handsome bridges, which enhance the sylvan beauty of this princely place. Although the external appearance of the mansion is not altogether in keeping with the extent and grandeur of the noble demesne, still the interior is rich and commodious, and contains several apartments which are at once spacious and beautiful. The entrance is from the capacious courtyard, which forms an extensive oblong, the elongated sides of which are occupied with ranges of splendid offices, consisting of stables, coach-houses, and domestic apartments. In the spacious hall are several fine paintings, one of which is a large and beautiful family picture, in which are represented the first Marquis of Waterford, previously Earl of Tyrone, with his Marchioness, their eldest son, and several of the junior members of the family; this, indeed, is a work of rare merit. The great extent of this grand demesne renders it almost impossible for even the most active visitor to realise its transcendent beauties in a single brief and hurried visit. From the lofty elevation, however, upon which has been erected the tall circular tower, from the summit of which can be obtained a magnificent prospect, the tourist will be enabled to form a tolerably accurate notion of its striking charac-

teristics and rare combinations, as its ample lawns, spreading meadows, and richly-wooded heights fall under his observation.

Returning from Curraghmore and Portlaw, the tourist will soon arrive at Pilltown, which beautiful village derives its name from an arm or branch of the river Suir, called the Pill, at the head of which it is situated. It may be said to consist of one long and wide street, the houses of which are of a superior character, and, with the nicely-planted areas which appear in front of them, present an exceedingly pleasing and prepossessing appearance. A quay was erected here some years since by the noble proprietor, the Earl of Besborough, who also caused a very neat Sessions House to be built. On an open space at the upper or western end of the village stands an unfinished octagon tower of two stories, which was erected several years ago, and intended as a testimonial to a member of the noble house of Besborough, General Ponsonby, who fell at the battle of Waterloo. Pilltown being situated in the parish of Fiddown, the Protestant church of the district is situated at the latter village; but on the 2nd of November, 1861, the first stone of a new church was laid by the noble Countess of Besborough, on the south-western extremity of Besborough Park. In the latter end of October, 1862, it was in a forward state, being nearly ready for the roof. This nice church, which is constructed of a fine soft granite quarried in the neighbourhood, with quoins of a fine blue limestone, is about 60 feet in length by 18 in breadth, in the English Gothic style of architecture, and will be, when finished, a very handsome house of worship.

In the Roman Catholic divisions, Pilltown forms part of the union of Templeorum, in which there are three churches; one of which, a large and commodious edifice, is situated at Templeorum, near the residence of the parish priest, the Rev. Walter McDonald; one at Pilltown, a remarkably neat structure; and the third about two miles north-west of that village. In this extensive union, the whole of which is on the estate of the Earl of Besborough, there are fourteen schools for boys and girls, all of which are in connection with the National Board of Education. There is a good hotel at Pilltown. The extensive demesne of the noble proprietor immediately adjoins the village, and is entered by several avenues with handsome gates and corresponding gate-lodges. It contains about 700 statute acres, and is intersected by a river which falls into the pill or arm of the Suir, already mentioned, at a short distance from the boundary wall. Handsome and commodious drives, at the entrances to which are likewise neat lodges, with persons in attendance to open and close the gates, branch off in various directions in front of the house. The mansion, a fine courtly building of quadrangular form, constructed of hewn limestone, with granite quoins and ornamental dressings, is about 100 feet in length and 80 in depth. The grand façade, which displays itself to the north, presents a slightly projecting centre and two wings—the flanking wings having three windows

in each of their three stories which rise above the basement. The centre is entered by a handsome door, which is approached by a flight of steps on each side. Above the door is a pediment with an appropriate window on each side, and an ornamental niche above the apex of the pediment, with a window on each extremity. The summit of the centre is likewise crowned with a rich pediment, from each side of which a balustraded parapet extends around the entire building. Extensive ranges similar to those at Curraghmore, one projecting from each extremity of the mansion, form, together with it, three sides of an oblong—that on the west constituting the domestic apartments, and that on the east the stables and coach-houses; while the finely-gravelled central area forms the approach to the palatial abode of the truly liberal and enlightened proprietor.

Leaving this eminently beautiful place and the adjoining enviable village, where everything wears a fresh and pleasing appearance, which causes it to be invested with such an air of comfort and refinement as can bear a comparison with any English town of its class, the tourist will soon arrive at Carrick-on-Suir. This town, as its name imports, is favourably situated on the river Suir, which flows through it, leaving part of the town in the county of Tipperary, and the remainder in the county of Waterford. The portion that lies on the Tipperary side, which is the more important part, was formerly called Carrickmore, and that on the south or Waterford side, Carrickbeg. It may be considered a reasonably good business town, being surrounded by a rich and fertile country. The principal street is of considerable length and of proportionate breadth, and contains within it several good houses and commodious shops, which are tastefully fitted up, and well stocked with their respective articles of merchandise. From this street, which extends in a line east and west, two or three streets of minor character lead to the Fair Green, a spacious area comprising over twenty acres, surrounded by houses of a comparatively plain description. On a portion of this extensive area are situated the handsome Sessions House and attached bridewell. Another street, which branches in a southerly direction, leads to the stone bridge that crosses the river and affords access to the Waterford side of the town.

The principal trade of Carrick consists, at present, of corn and butter, which, for the most part, are conveyed to Waterford for shipment to England. The river is navigable for vessels of large size to Fiddown, where lighters, which are employed for the purpose, convey the produce to them. This town formed a portion of the lands granted by Henry II. to Theobald Walter, who accompanied that monarch to Ireland. Henry also granted to this nobleman the lands of Carrickbeg, on the Waterford side of the river. Edmund Butler, a grandson of this lord, erected a castle here about the year 1309; which castle, together with extensive and rich meadows, in the year 1336, was granted by his son, James Butler, who was created Earl

of Ormonde in 1328, to the Franciscan Friary at Carrickbeg, which he had founded about this time. This castle, as we are informed, continued to form a part of the endowment of the convent until about the year 1445, when the brethren having suffered it to fall into a ruinous state, it was purchased from them by Sir Edmund Butler, surnamed MacRichard, grandson of James, third Earl of Ormonde, who rebuilt both the castle and the bridge. We find that a priory, dedicated to St. John the Evangelist, was founded here about the latter end of the twelfth century, for Canons Regular of the order of St. Augustine, by William de Cantell and Dionisia his wife, daughter of Thomas Fitz-Anthony. After the dissolution of religious houses, it was granted to Thomas, Earl of Ormonde; which grant was confirmed in the year 1562 by Queen Elizabeth. A castle was erected on the site of this establishment by Thomas Duff, called Black Thomas, Earl of Ormonde. We are likewise told that a nunnery was erected at an early period in Carrick, for the Poor Sisters of the order of St. Clare, but of it there are at present no vestiges remaining.

The bridge which crosses the Suir, and affords access to Carrickbeg, is a very old and strong structure, and may, in all probability, be that which was erected by MacRichard several centuries ago. A small building, which in modern times appears to have been used as a watch-house, is supported on a massive square basement of solid masonry, apparently of the same standing as the bridge, to the western side of which it is attached. A similar structure stands attached to the opposite or eastern side of the bridge. These strong abutments, in the absence of precise information, may be supposed to have been the piers from which sprang an arch which spanned the bridge, and supported a castellated defensive building that guarded what at that time must have been deemed an important pass.

It is said that a charter was granted to the town in the year 1500, by the Earl of Ormonde, which charter, it is alleged, was signed by him at Waterford. This charter, if ever acted on, must have early fallen into disuse, as we do not find any subsequent reference made to it. The market is held on Saturday, and fairs on the first Thursday of every month. Of the public buildings, the Catholic church is the most important, being a spacious edifice, which is entered in the centre of its gabled front by a handsome Gothic door, over which is a fine triplet window in the perpendicular style. There is also a door of smaller size in each extremity of the front, above which is a well-proportioned two-light window. The interior is appropriately decorated, and the principal altar embellished with a painting of the crucifixion, said to have been the work of a native artist. In the rear of the church is the convent of the Nuns of the Presentation order, a fine large house. The Protestant church is centrally situated at a short distance from the Catholic church just mentioned, and is a modern structure of oblong character, of some six or seven years' standing. In its immediate vicinity is a small school-house. In that

part of the town leading to Pilltown, in a handsome edifice called the Red House, has lately been established a branch of the devoted Sisters of Mercy; and at a short distance from it an extensive school-house, under the care and superintendence of the Christian Brothers. The Catholic church of Carrickbeg, a handsome oblong structure, with a bell-tower in the centre of its northern side, is finely situated on a gentle elevation, and is a good house of worship. In the same vicinity are the convent and church of the Franciscan Friars; the latter a fine cruciform edifice, with a neat tower and steeple. The ceilings of this church are richly groined, and the altars nicely decorated.

The union workhouse of the district is situated in the vicinity of the town; there are also a Fever Hospital and dispensary here. The military barracks, erected here several years ago, which were originally intended for cavalry, have of late years been occupied by infantry. The castle, formerly the residence of the Ormonde family, although it has fallen into decay, is still a stately and imposing feature. The lawn upon which it stands is margined on the south by the river Suir, which here presents an enlarged appearance, and is surrounded on the other sides by a strong, defensive, semicircular wall. It is entered from the eastern end of the main street by a large iron gate, which is in charge of a keeper, who resides in the adjoining lodge. The castle, as it now stands, consists of two massive quadrangular towers, which communicate with each other by a connecting corridor. On the north side is a range of buildings that constituted the domestic apartments, which are at present in charge of a caretaker and his family. The principal chambers, consisting of drawing-rooms, dining-rooms, and parlours, exhibit traces of their former grandeur, specimens of which are perceptible in the splendid panelled ceilings, and the faded fresco paintings on the walls. Commodious stone stairs lead to the summit of the grand keep, from which a magnificent prospect presents itself, in which are included the Tipperary and Waterford mountains, and the widely-spreading, majestic Suir. The Marchioness of Ormonde, accompanied by her son, the youthful Marquis, and other members of her noble family, paid a visit to the castle in the early part of the year 1861, when hopes were entertained that repairs and restorations were about to be made upon it. But, from the extensive ravages occasioned by the corroding hand of time, it would involve a larger outlay of capital to render it fit for even their temporary abode than would serve to erect a handsome modern mansion. A town-hall was, some years since, erected here, in the upper part of which the Commissioners under the Towns Improvement Act hold their meetings; while a news-room is kept in the under story. Although the population of the neighbourhood has been reduced by emigration and other causes, the town is gradually improving, and in the autumn of 1861 showed unmistakable signs of an upward tendency. Branches of the Provincial and National Banks have been established in the town.

CHAPTER XX.

CLONMEL AND OTHER TOWNS IN THE COUNTY OF TIPPERARY.

THE ride from Carrick-on-Suir to Clonmel is surpassingly beautiful, as a continuous chain of richly-planted hills extends above the river on the Waterford side; while sometimes, in the distance, on the same side, are obtained admirable views of the fine mountain range called the Reeks of Kilpatrick, and of the bold and lofty Cummeraghs. On the Tipperary side the finely-rounded and swelling Slievenamon mountain appears in wild grandeur, and completes the outline of the interesting landscape. Several rich and beautiful seats attract the notice of the delighted traveller along this beautiful line, among which may be mentioned Coolnamuck, a fine old place, recently purchased by the present Marquis of Waterford. Landscape, with Gurteen, the fine residence of the Powers, and Newtown-Anner, the grand seat of Bernal Osborne, Esq., M.P., one after another present themselves, and by their diversified and characteristic loveliness command his unqualified admiration. Soon after passing the latter grand demesne; the tourist will arrive at Clonmel, which, like Carrick, is situated on the fine river Suir, and is a parish, partly in the barony of Upperthird, in the county of Waterford, but chiefly in that of Iffa and Offa, county of Tipperary, about ten miles from Carrick-on-Suir, twenty-three from Waterford, and eighty-three from Dublin. The town, which is said to have been a place of some importance prior to the invasion of this country by the Danes, is supposed to have derived its name from *Cluain-Meala*, which in the Irish language signifies the "Plain of Honey." It is still called the "Honey Vale," partly owing to its enviable situation and the richness of its soil, and the valley in which it stands being bounded and sheltered by lofty and picturesque mountains, and partly from the honey, which in considerable abundance it produces, being like that of ancient Hybla, on the coast of Sicily, of the finest quality, and of a peculiarly delicious flavour. It has been stated that a Dominican abbey was founded here in 1269, but by whom it cannot now be precisely ascertained. We are informed that a convent for Friars of the Franciscan order was founded at Clonmel about the same period, by Otho de Grandison, which in the year 1536, with the consent of the proper authorities, was taken possession of by the Brethren of the Strict Observance. The

church of this monastery was considered one of the most magnificent in the province at this time. It appears that this convent was taken possession of by the crown in 1540, and on the final dissolution of the religious houses, its possessions were granted in equal parts between the corporation of Clonmel and the Earl of Ormonde. A convent of this renowned and pious brotherhood, a comparatively modern building of plain domestic character, was erected some years ago nearly opposite the church of their order in Warren Street, in a central part of the town. The church, which is an edifice of long standing, is attached to an ancient square tower, which is in a state of tolerable preservation. In the year 1516, the town, which, as we are informed, was surrounded with walls and strongly fortified, was besieged and taken by the Earl of Kildare. During the great Civil War which commenced in 1641 it was garrisoned for the king by the Marquis of Ormonde. In 1650 it was attacked by Cromwell, but was bravely defended by Hugh O'Neill, an officer of high repute, who, with 1,200 of the Ulster forces, maintained it with such valour and determination, that on the first assault not less than 2,000 of Cromwell's army were slain, and the siege was converted into a blockade. However, after a stout and obstinate resistance of two months, Major-General O'Neill, nephew to the celebrated Owen Roe O'Neill, finding himself short of ammunition, crossed the river by night with his garrison, and withdrew towards Waterford. The next day, as we are told, the inhabitants offered to capitulate, and the besiegers, not knowing the precise state of matters within the town, readily granted their demands. During the period of this siege, as we are informed, Cromwell received orders from the parliament to return to England, where his presence became necessary to resist the efforts of the Scottish Royalists. He therefore embarked at Youghal, on the 29th of May, and left the command of the army to his son-in-law, Ireton. The town remained in the possession of the Parliamentary army till a short time previous to the Restoration, when it was taken by the Royalists. At the period of the Revolution, Clonmel, which was held by the friends and supporters of James II., was abandoned on the approach of William's army to lay siege to the city of Waterford. Clonmel is a handsome town of comparatively modern appearance, and continued for many years to be one of the most flourishing and prosperous inland towns in Ireland. Since the establishment of the line of railway in this part of Munster, however, a change has taken place, which has deprived it of many of the advantages that it hitherto possessed, and the inhabitants are complaining of the reverse which it has experienced. During a brief visit which I made to this town in the year 1850, I was informed by a butter-merchant with whom I conversed on the then altered state of the times, arising from blight and loss of crops, that some years before he had known so large a sum as £150,000 to have been paid in a single day for butter, corn, cattle, pigs, and bacon. There may have been some exaggeration in this statement; but from the admirable

situation of the town, surrounded as it is by a rich country, we can very well suppose that large sums change hands on certain fair and market-days. On my last visit to Clonmel, which was made in the early part of the month of November, 1861, on making inquiry as regarded the state and prospects of the town, a smart man of business stated that Clonmel had gone to the dogs. Statements like this should be received with caution, as not unfrequently, owing to peculiar circumstances, a temporary stagnation may arise, and then, contrasting matters with those which were known to exist in more favourable seasons, persons are too ready to jump at unfavourable conclusions. Although Clonmel is not a seaport town, a considerable trade is carried on between it and England; and before the opening of the line of railway, there were as many as a hundred lighters generally engaged in conveying corn, flour, butter, bacon, and live stock to Waterford, where they were shipped for Bristol, Liverpool, and other English ports. Several hundred carriers were also employed in conveying goods between Dublin and other Irish towns. This species of traffic, as a matter of course, will now, to a great extent, be carried on by the railway. In some of my recent visits to this and some of the neighbouring towns, I learned that the opening of the line of railway through this part of the south of Ireland has operated more or less to the disadvantage of Clonmel, inasmuch as the produce purchased in many of the minor towns, such as Tipperary, Cashel, and Thurles, which was wont to be brought into this town, is now conveyed by the railway to the intended shipping port. The people of Clonmel, however, can afford to bear a slight change such as may be occasioned by what is unquestionably for the general advantage of the country, and can comfort themselves with the reflection that partial evil generally accompanies universal good, and that in the growing prosperity of the country, which is likely to result from the benefits conferred by railways, they will ultimately find an equivalent for any temporary drawback to their present interests. The admirable situation and natural capabilities of Clonmel must ever cause it to be a good business town. There are numerous stores and some large mills here, which are conveniently situated on the line of quays that extend along the north side of the river, which may be said to intersect the town. There are also two large ale and porter breweries in the town, and an extensive distillery at Marlfield, which is about two statute miles from it.

Clonmel is situated principally on the northern bank of the river Suir, in a beautiful valley, which is sheltered from the east and south winds by a long range of picturesque mountains known under the general designation of Knocklucas. The bold and striking mountain called Slievenamon, though much more distant from the town than Knocklucas, affords shelter and protection on the northern side. The tourist who visits Clonmel will find it his interest to ascend the side of Knocklucas, to the point where he will fall in with the celebrated

spa which issues from the side of the mountain. From this elevated range he will be amply repaid for his trouble in making the ascent, by the magnificent prospect which awaits him. Looking towards the north, he will obtain a full view of the interesting and celebrated Slievenamon; while the views that present themselves on the east and west exhibit as rich, extensive, and beautiful an expanse of champaign country as it is possible to behold in any part of the four provinces. The town, as seen from this height, appears to great advantage, displaying as it does its fresh and, for the most part, new houses to the view. The handsome towers and spires of the public buildings greatly enrich the scene, while the suburban villas, which numerously abound, give a diversity and completeness to the picture.

The principal or main street, which is of convenient breadth, extends for about a statute mile from east to west, on a line parallel with the river. In it are included streets that bear other denominations—as, for instance, Dublin Street in the east, and Irish town in the western extremity. At the eastern entrance to the town are extensive barracks for artillery, cavalry, and infantry, and in the rear of them, on an elevated site, a military hospital. In front of the infantry barrack is an extensive parade-ground, on a part of which a very nice church has been erected for the use of the troops, and a school for the education of their children. Three stone bridges cross the river in the vicinity of the town, and afford access to the interesting suburbs on the south side of it.

The ancient church of St. Mary's Abbey, which is now the Protestant parochial church, is situated in the popular burial-ground of the town, and was, when I saw it a few years since, a fine remnant of the antique English style of architecture. It has recently undergone extensive repairs and alterations; indeed, it may be almost said to have been rebuilt, and has consequently lost much of the venerable appearance which rendered it such an object of interest in the eyes of the antiquarian. But, however the lovers of the antique in architecture may lament the change that has taken place, those who prefer utility and comfort to old and ideal associations will have much cause to rejoice in its decided improvement. The whole building, internally and externally, including its massive tower, presents a fresh and handsome appearance, and may be looked upon with pride and pleasure by those who were entrusted with the carrying out of the works. The octagonal embattled tower, 84 feet in height, stands attached to the south side of the eastern gable, and is based on a platform of strong masonry, supported by massive buttresses. There are a pair of fine bells in the steeple of this tower. The east or chancel end of the church is enriched with fine Gothic groinings, and the window with nice stained glass. The west window, in front of which is situated the beautiful organ, is also embellished with stained glass. There are several handsome monuments to be seen here, some of them to the memory of members of the Bagwell family, and others to the Hutchinsons and

Moores. Some remains of ancient defensive towers are to be seen adjoining the churchyard, which is surrounded by what would seem to be a portion of the old town wall, in many parts of which niches are formed, wherein tasteful mural monuments have been erected. The fine Catholic church of St. Peter's parish, a handsome cruciform structure, with a nice tower and graceful spire, is centrally situated, and is entered from one of the principal streets of the town. From its construction, and

ST. MARY'S ABBEY CHURCH.

the neat gallery which occupies each transept, as well as the western end of the nave, it is capable of affording comfortable accommodation to a large congregation. The splendid and sweet-toned powerful organ is situated in the rear of the nave gallery. The altar has a peculiarly rich and unique appearance, while the decorations and ornamental parts of the church in general are such as reflect the highest credit on those under whose care and stewardship they have been placed. In that part called the Irish town, a fine Catholic church was erected some years ago by the Rev. John Baldwin, the parish priest of St. Mary's. It is a spacious substantial building, supported externally by buttresses ending in pilasters of the Ionic order; its length being 135 feet, and its breadth 40 in the clear; the height to the wall-plate 50 feet, and to the ridge of the roof 60. The tower, which was not finished when I paid my visit to the church, was, together with the spire, intended to be 130 feet high. The residence of the good pastor, and the school-house of his parish, immediately adjoin this interesting temple of religious worship.

A very handsome school-house, of ample dimensions, was erected some years since, under the immediate inspection of the Very Rev. Dr. Burke, the distinguished parish priest of St. Peter's, and the Vicar-General of the diocese. The education of the children resorting to this school is conducted and inculcated by members of the devoted and highly-meritorious Christian Brothers' Society. The Court House, a large and handsome building, is centrally situated; while the jail is somewhat secluded, and therefore does not come under the immediate notice of the visitor. There are branches of the Bank of Ireland, the Provincial, and the National Bank in the town. For the last-named establishment, a splendid house has been recently erected in that fine open part of Dublin Street, wherein is situated the principal hotel, kept by Mr. Hearne. The new bank is situated immediately opposite this long-established and well-conducted house, to which it shows its nice front of cut stone, consisting of a slightly-projecting centre, and two short wings. In each of the latter is a handsome door, one leading to the public office, and the other to the private apartments of the manager. It is a very beautiful edifice of two stories, the first of which is of fine rusticated workmanship, with elaborately wrought vermiculated quoins, the finely-rounded arches of the doors and windows being ornamented with similar decorations. In each story of the central projection are three windows, those in the lower story having finely-rounded heads, while those in the upper are enriched with architraves, and ogees supporting handsome pediments, that in the centre being angular, and the others square. A rich belt-course runs above the heads of the windows in the lower story; while a bold cornice supporting a balustrade surmounts the summit of the central or projecting portion of the front. Above the doors in the lateral extensions are a pair of characteristic lights divided by a rich mullion, with fine label-mouldings over each of the arched compartments.

On paying a visit to the Marlfield distillery, I was induced to enter the very beautiful demesne of the Right Hon. Colonel Bagwell, the present excellent representative of the borough of Clonmel in Parliament, the gates of which are at all times thrown open to the public without distinction, and it is therefore greatly frequented by the inhabitants of Clonmel. The grounds are exceedingly rich and beautiful, and are intersected by the river Suir, which flows, in a peculiarly interesting and graceful sweep, through the finely-planted and verdant lawn in front of the house. On the west of the large and finely-situated mansion is the extensive conservatory, which is filled with the richest and rarest foreign and native plants and flowers. This delightful and truly interesting emporium of all that is attractive in the way of floral and horticultural refinement is also quite open to the public, and it is no uncommon occurrence to see even pauper children disporting themselves within it. This extreme liberality is highly honourable to the excellent proprietor, and proves that his private character is in keeping with that which has so eminently dis-

tinguished his public and parliamentary career. His excellent example is, to a great extent, imitated by his noble neighbour, the Earl of Donoughmore, at his fine seat, Knocklofty, to which there is a continuous walk through the picturesque grounds of Marlfield. There are several extensive and beautiful seats in this neighbourhood.

A fine new union workhouse has been erected within the last seven or eight years in the neighbourhood of the town; and it is very gratifying to find that pauperism has here, as elsewhere, been gradually diminishing. The butter market of Clonmel is a convenient building, well suited to the requirements of this important branch of merchandise. There are also convenient shambles and a commodious potato market in the town. Several charters were granted to Clonmel subsequent to the reign of the first Edward; but that under which the town continued to be governed up to the passing of the Municipal Corporations Act in the year 1841, was that of 1608, the sixth year of the reign of James I. The borough continued to return two members to the Irish parliament till the passing of the Act of Union, since which time it sends one to the Imperial parliament. The town is well and carefully governed by the new and reformed corporation. Several borough magistrates have been appointed since its establishment, who, in conjunction with the mayor, dispense justice with a firm and impartial hand. The salutary effects of their wisdom and discretion are quite apparent in the peace, good order, and cleanliness of the town. The gentleman who filled the office of mayor when I paid my first visit was Joseph Kenny, Esq., a most intelligent, gentlemanly, and popular man, who has been called upon to fill the dignified and important office of mayor three times since the passing of the late Municipal Act. While in Clonmel I had the good fortune to obtain an introduction to the Very Rev. Dr. Burke, the exceedingly popular and beloved parish priest of St. Peter's. He is a man of refined and elegant manners, with an unmistakable intellectuality about him that at once, commands reverence and respect. Among the charitable institutions of the town may be mentioned the district Lunatic Asylum for the county of Tipperary, which was erected here, and opened for patients in 1835. It is capable of accommodating about sixty patients, and was built at an expense of £16,500. There is a Fever Hospital, and also a dispensary, in the town. Among the educational institutions, that of the pious and charitable Sisters—the Nuns of the Presentation convent—ranks deservedly high, and in which a very large number of the female children of the town receive a gratuitous and religious education, in which is included industrial training suitable to their circumstances and prospects in life. Of the four gates by which access was obtained to the town when it was surrounded by walls, the west gate alone remains. It has recently undergone substantial repairs, and is a very remarkable and imposing feature. The gateway is formed by a capacious elliptic Gothic arch of 27 feet by 18 feet, through which there is a communication from the main street to the

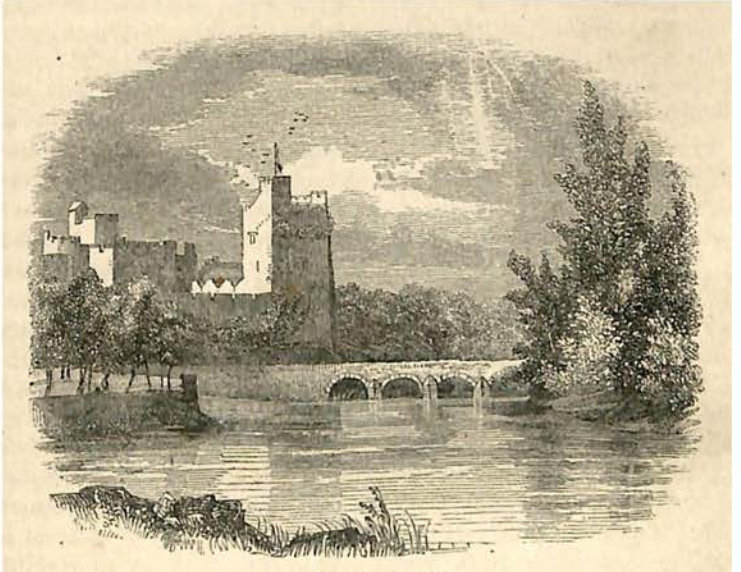
Irish town. A neat and peculiar building of castellated character, three stories in height, stands above, and is supported by this arch. On the north-western angle of the tower rises a handsome turret, which, on marked occasions, might be used as a flagstaff tower. The effect produced upon the mind of a stranger by the gateway and its appendages is at once novel and pleasing. In the western suburbs are the ruins of a church which was dedicated to St. Stephen; while in the southern part of the town are those of the Church of St. Nicholas. In the neighbourhood are the ruins of several castles, and some traces of Danish forts.

The tourist should not leave this part of the county of Tipperary without paying a visit to the town of Cahir, which is delightfully situated on the river Suir, about eight miles from Clonmel. This town is of remote antiquity, and appears to have attained a considerable degree of importance at an early period. We are informed that a castle was built here, so early as the year 1142, by Connor, King of Thomond, and monarch of Ireland. In the reign of King John, Geoffry de Camvill is said to have founded a priory here, in honour of the Blessed Virgin, for Canons Regular of the order of St. Augustine, which establishment continued to flourish till the year 1540, when it was surrendered to the crown. Cahir, like other portions of this and the neighbouring county of Kilkenny, came into the possession of the Butler family, and the present town owes much of its modern advantages to the late Earl of Glengall, who was a descendant of that illustrious house, and the owner of the property on which it stands. In the reign of Elizabeth the castle was besieged by the Earl of Essex, who, with the whole of his army, closely invested it; but the garrison, emboldened by the war then waged by the Earl of Desmond against the English, held out for ten days, but was obliged ultimately to surrender. In the year 1647 this fortress was invested by the Earl of Inchiquin, and, notwithstanding its great strength, some of its outworks having been gained by the asasilants, it surrendered in a few hours. Cahir is, indeed, a very nice town of its class, and the surrounding country surpassingly beautiful. Fine undulating hills environ it on all sides, while the Suir, winding in devious curves, and in some places forming picturesque cascades, invests it with traits of varied loveliness which may challenge a comparison with many of our most favoured localities. In the centre of the town is a handsome square, on the south side of which is Cahir House, the residence of the late Earl of Glengall, and on the opposite or northern side, a nice Sessions House. The Catholic church, a very handsome edifice of modern erection and cruciform plan, in the later English style of architecture, is situated at the southern extremity of the town; it is enriched with an ornamental tower, decorated with octagonal minarets ending in crocketed pinnacles. On the angles of the nave and transepts rise graduating buttresses, which likewise end in crocketed pinnacles; while the apex of each is crowned with a finely-wrought cross. The tower, the

buttresses, and the piers of the handsome entrance gate, are constructed of nice granite. In the immediate vicinity of this very neat house of worship is a commodious school in connection with the National Board of Education. The Protestant church, a very fine building in the later English style, is admirably situated on a verdant elevation that overlooks the Suir, and, with its beautiful tower and graceful spire, together with its nice pinnacles and embattled ornaments, is a remarkably striking and conspicuous feature. Within the churchyard is a handsome school-house, whose nicely-decorated exterior may be said to correspond in style with that of the church. In this vicinity the river, after passing beneath the new railway bridge, an iron structure 300 feet in length, supported by a couple of substantial, but still light and elegant, piers on each side, flows downwards, and, by its outstretched and spreading arms, forms a picturesque island, and in one of its channels a fine cascade, which, falling into a circular basin, passes under a handsome bridge, and thence sweeps, in a deep and ample volume, on the eastern side of the grand castle. The other arm of the curving river, after rendering important services in working the extensive mills of the Messrs. Sarjint, flows in a broad and rapid stream on the western side of the castle.

The island thus formed comprises about five acres of fine meadow ground, including that portion which constitutes the site of the castle and its appurtenances, being about two acres in extent, which rise considerably above the adjoining grounds. At the southern extremity of the island the branching river again meets, and, thus reunited, flows in graceful majesty through the splendid grounds of the late Earl of Glengall, called Kilcommon demesne. The grand entrance to this fine demesne is situated about a furlong from the town, and is formed by a capacious semicircular sweep, composed of rich granite, the gate piers on each extremity being of castellated construction. From the nice gate-lodge a fine gravelled walk of about a mile in length leads to the light iron bridge constructed by Turner, of Dublin, that spans the Suir near the rustic thatched cottage, the favourite retreat of Lady Glengall. This cottage was, when I paid my last visit, in excellent repair, having been recently refreshed and cleaned up under the direction of the late John Sadleir, Esq., whose inordinate cupidity induced him to become the purchaser of the noble demesne in the Incumbered Estates Court. The pleasure-grounds comprise about eight acres, and occupy an elevated mount, beneath which the Suir flows on the north—the other sides being surrounded by a deep ravine; on the sloping, and in some parts, the precipitous faces of which, grow almost every description of forest trees, which afford covert for large quantities of game. The internal space is enriched with the choicest specimens of evergreens and flowering shrubs; while beauteous flowers, in great variety, bedeck and fringe the numerous intersecting walks, and, by their rich tints and delicious perfumes, constitute a second paradise.

Cahir Castle, already mentioned, presents a formidable appearance, and must in former times have been a very strong fortress. Its principal front faces the north, and is flanked on each extremity by a square tower. The eastern front, before which flows the deeper arm of the river, is flanked and defended by one of the square towers already mentioned, which occupies the eastern angle of the north front; while a massive circular tower appears in the centre, and a comparatively small tower, also of circular form, stands upon the south angle of this front. The intermediate walls which fill up the space



CAHIR CASTLE.

between these towers, as well as the towers themselves, are prepared with embrasure battlements, and pierced for cannon and musketry. That arm of the river which turns the extensive mills of the Messrs. Sarjint flows before the western face of the fortress, which stands upon the summit of a coarse and dense rock, and is defended by the western side of the great keep or castle, a large and very strong quadrangular tower, which rises high above all the other defensive portions of the important fortification. The southern extremity of this front is flanked by a small circular tower with a conical roof, similar to that which stands upon the south-eastern angle of the fort. The south front is only remarkable for the towers just mentioned, which occupy its east and west extremities, the intermediate space being filled up by an embattled and embrasured range wall. This magnificent demesne, which comprises 560 acres, together with Cahir House, the residence of the late noble proprietor, is now in the possession of Robert Malcomson, Esq., one of the celebrated merchant princes of the south of Ireland, who some time since became the purchaser of it.

There are several other fine seats in the neighbourhood, among which may be mentioned Cahir Abbey, the nice residence of Mr. Grubb, adjoining which is an extensive flour-mill. On a part of Mr. Grubb's grounds are the remains of the ancient abbey, which are situated at a short distance from the town, and that, on the right of the railway leading to Tipperary, fall under the notice of the traveller, whose interest becomes excited by the symmetry and style of the windows and other portions of the picturesque ruins of what was a beautiful church of moderate dimensions. The bridewell, which stands upon a gentle elevation about a furlong from the town, is a very handsome building of the kind, and forms a pleasing object in the landscape. The cavalry barracks, which are capable of accommodating four troops of horse, are situated about a mile from the town.

Arriving at the town of Tipperary, which has been long known as a very comfortable and prosperous place, the tourist will be gratified to learn that, since the establishment of the railway in this part of the country, it has been gradually rising in a business point of view, and is now considered one of the best market towns in the south of Ireland. Since the opening of this line, much of the produce previously taken to the markets of Clonmel is now brought to this town; and hence the change so decidedly favourable as regards its growing prosperity has arisen. My first visit was made to this town in the month of August, 1850; and, although having few prominent features to attract the notice of the visitor, it was even at that time, which followed so closely the period of the famine, a good business place. It consists of one long street, from which two others branch off in opposite directions; the shops being numerous, and well stocked with the several commodities in which their respective proprietors deal. In two subsequent visits, which were made in the summer of 1853, and the autumn of 1856, I found that considerable alterations and improvements had taken place, and that the inhabitants were in high spirits, all alike admitting that the opening of the railway to the town had been productive of the best consequences. On my visit to this stirring place in the autumn of 1860, I felt agreeable surprise in witnessing the decided improvement which had taken place; for not only were the shops in general enlarged and furnished with plate glass, but even many of the houses were rebuilt; and the whole town, when contrasted with what it was some six or eight years before, presented a comparatively city-like aspect. The new and splendid Catholic church, which at that time may be said to have been entirely finished, forms a peculiarly striking and agreeable feature; while the beautiful house, which was then being built for the branch of the Bank of Ireland, established here on the failure of the unfortunate Tipperary Joint Stock Bank; and the extensive Fair Green, recently laid out in the immediate vicinity of the railway station, which comprises some six or eight acres of ground, afford unmistakable evidence of the progress which this small town has made. I heard, while here on this last

occasion, that so large a sum as £400,000 is now annually laid out in the purchase of butter in this market, and that a large portion of that important article of commerce, which heretofore was wont to be taken for sale to Clonmel, is at present brought by the dairy farmers to this town. Large quantities of corn and cattle are also purchased here, and conveyed to Waterford, Limerick, and even to Dublin. The markets are held on Thursday and Saturday, and fairs several times in the year. The small but neat market-house is situated in the principal street, upon which it confers a pleasing and business-like aspect.

The Protestant church, a handsome edifice, enriched with a neat tower and very graceful spire, is nicely situated, and forms a remarkably pleasing and, from its elevated position, prominent feature. The very beautiful Catholic church, to which allusion has been already made, is a noble building of elaborate character, in the Gothic style of architecture, consisting of a nave, chancel, and side aisles, with a tower and spire at the southern extremity of the west end. It is entered in this end beneath a magnificent arch, which, with its four times repeated rich mouldings, springs from five finely-wrought side columns. Above this entrance is a large five-light window, the lancet compartments of which are filled with stained glass. The grand and side altars, which are of Caen stone, are exceedingly beautiful, being enriched with elegant columns of Cork, Galway, and Armagh marbles, and adorned with numerous angelic and saintly statues.

The new Bank of Ireland is three stories in height, and greatly resembles in style the new National Bank at Clonmel, the front exhibiting a central projection and lateral flanking wings. The basement story is of fine rusticated granite-work, and the upper stories of beautiful brick, with dressings of nice granite. There is also a branch of the National Bank in the town. The parish priest, the Very Rev. Dr. Howley, and his curates, reside in a neat cottage in the suburbs of the town. There is a school here, under the National Board of Education, in which boys and girls are educated.

On my last visit to the south of Ireland, which was made in the early part of the month of November, 1861, I was so fortunate as to have arrived at Tipperary on the evening previous to the day fixed for the consecration of the new Roman Catholic church, and, consequently, was present at the august and imposing ceremony, which was performed by His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Leahy, Archbishop of Cashel and Emly. The sacred ceremony commenced about ten o'clock, and was followed by the celebration of the grand solemn mass, the Right Rev. Dr. Delany, Bishop of Cork, being the celebrant. The consecration sermon was preached by the Right Rev. Dr. Derry, Bishop of Clonfert, and was of the most impressive and moving character. The other prelates in attendance were the Right Rev. Dr. Keane, Bishop of Cloyne; the Right Rev. Dr. Flannery, Bishop of Killaloe; and the Right Rev. Dr. Butler, the coadjutor-bishop of Limerick. Among the other dignitaries, I noticed the Very Rev.

Dr. Burke, Vicar-General of the archdiocese, and parish priest of Clonmel; the Very Rev. Dean Cantwell, parish priest of Fethard; and the Ven. Archdeacon Laffan, parish priest of Cashel. The noble church, which is 140 feet in length by 65 feet in breadth in the clear, was entirely filled on this occasion, yet the most perfect order and regularity prevailed. A large choir assembled in the fine organ-gallery, among whom were several vocal and instrumental performers from Cork, and the music was of first-rate character. The grand chancel window is of beautiful stained glass; while all the other windows are partially stained, the sides being bordered with red, green, blue, and amber. The reflection of these various tints, with the richly-decorated chancel arches, occasionally falling on that part of the sanctuary where the saintly Archbishop sat enthroned, threw a rich natural halo on the solemn and supernatural proceedings of the day, which those who were present will long remember. The good people of Tipperary, and their excellent parish priest, the Very Rev. Dr. Howley, are entitled to much praise, and have reason to feel proud of their fine church, which has involved an outlay of some £12,000, the whole of which, with the exception of £500, was then paid, and was all collected within their own parish.

Leaving the flourishing town of Tipperary, the tourist, in a comparatively short space of time, may be conveyed to the town of Cashel, than which there is no town in the province of Munster, nor indeed in the island, of its class, where there are more materials to excite the interest of the contemplative student engaged in the pursuit of historic truth, or to enlist the ardour of the antiquarian, whose pride and delight it is to trace and develop traditionary lore, than are to be found in the archiepiscopal city of Cashel. Here the great Cormac MacCullinan, who united in his own person the two illustrious and dignified offices, royal and sacerdotal, of king and bishop, in his palace based upon the renowned rock, exercised at once sovereign and metropolitan episcopal sway. Here also, in the earliest ages of the church in this country, the glorious St. Patrick and his apostolic contemporaries, St. Ailbe and St. Declan, held synodical assemblages. History informs us that St. Patrick, having established Christianity in Leinster, proceeded to Munster, where the religion of the Redeemer had already been partially introduced, and a few churches founded by his pious precursors. On arriving in this province, he proceeded directly towards Cashel, where King Aengus at that time resided. This prince, being informed of the virtues and sanctity of the great apostle, came forth to meet him on a spacious plain—part of the territory that surrounds Cashel, and subsequently designated the Golden Vale, from the village named Golden, situated on the river Suir in this neighbourhood. He received the Saint with every mark of respect, and invited him to enter his city of Cashel, where he heard the word of God, and was converted, together with his whole court. Aengus, as we are informed, became firmly attached

to the religion he had embraced, and pious and exemplary in the observance of the high duties it inculcates. After a reign of thirty-five years, this prince, together with his queen, daughter of Crimthan, King of Leinster, and grand-daughter of Eana-Kinsellagh, was killed in a battle on the plain of Magh-Fea, near Leighlin in the county of Carlow.

Among the distinguished personages to whom Cashel is indebted for so much of its fame and celebrity, was Cormac MacCullinan, who, in the early part of the tenth century, succeeded Donough in the kingdom of Munster, and who was both a spiritual and temporal prince, being at the same time Bishop of Cashel, and king of the province. This prince, who has been so celebrated by the native historians, not only for his learning but likewise for his piety, his charity, his valour, and his munificence, was well versed in the antiquity of his country, and was the writer of the Psalter of Cashel, a work held in great estimation. Some doubts are entertained in reference to the erection of the edifice the ruins of which, still in fine preservation, are to be seen on the renowned rock.

Writers of considerable weight and authority incline to the belief that King Cormac either founded or restored the ancient cathedral of Cashel, by building the church which was called after him Cormac's Chapel. Others, however, attribute its erection to Cormac MacCarthy, the pious King of Desmond. But as each of the supposed founders bore the same name, which has been bestowed upon the church, it is somewhat difficult to come to a satisfactory conclusion in a matter concerning which even authors of high repute differ. This good and pious prince, who was greatly averse to war, was reluctantly forced by his council, in the seventh year of his reign, to declare war against the province of Leinster, to enforce the payment of a tribute which the Kings of Munster exacted from the inhabitants of that province. The result of this ill-advised determination was the total rout and overthrow of the Munster forces. The king, who, as before stated, was averse to this war, greatly signalised himself in the short engagement, but was unhappily killed by a fall from his horse on the 16th of August, 913. His body, it appears, was brought to Cashel, where he was interred, agreeably to his will; although Keating, in his history, asserts that he was buried at Diseart-Diarmuda, now Castle Dermot.

In the year 990, as we are informed, Cashel was fortified by Brian Boru, and a house or palace built by him is said to have stood at the corner of the old Chapel Lane in the town. It has been also stated that until the year 1101, the buildings on the Rock of Cashel were merely confined to the royal residence, the cathedral being supposed to have occupied some other site. In that year, however, according to the annals of Innisfallen, Murtoch O'Brien convened an assemblage of the clergy and people of Cashel, in which he assigned over to the bishops the hitherto royal seat of the Kings of Munster, and dedicated

it to God, St. Patrick, and St. Ailbe. The same annals state that Cormac MacCarthy, King of Desmond, in 1127, erected a church here, the chapel already alluded to, and called after him, Teampul Chormaic, which in 1134 was consecrated by the Archbishop and Bishops of Munster, in the presence of a large assemblage of the bishops and clergy. A new church, it appears, was erected in the year 1169 on the rock, the site of the present cathedral, by Donald O'Brien, King of Limerick, who liberally endowed it with lands, and converted the church founded by Cormac into a chapel or chapter-house.

When Henry II. landed at Waterford in the year 1172, he marched to Cashel, where he received the homage of the above-named King of Limerick; and in the month of November in that year, he summoned a general synod of the Irish clergy, which was also attended by such of the Irish lords and chieftains as had previously submitted to his sway, and at which Christian, Bishop of Lismore, presided. This assembly having acknowledged the sovereignty of the King of England, he bestowed on the archbishop and chapter the city of Cashel, with a large tract of the adjoining country. In the year 1179 the town was burnt, but after its restoration, Donat O'Lonargan, who succeeded to the see in 1216, constituted it a borough. In 1228, Henry III. made over to Archbishop Marian and his successors the new town of Cashel, to be held of him and his heirs, free from all exactions and secular services. An hospital founded here for the sick and infirm poor, in honour of St. Nicholas, by Sir David Latimer, seneschal to Archbishop Marian, was afterwards bestowed on a community of the Cistercian brotherhood, by Archbishop David MacCorvill. In 1243, a Dominican friary was founded in Cashel by Archbishop David MacKelly, which, being destroyed by an accidental fire, was rebuilt by Archbishop Cantwell, who was constituted its patron and founder by an instrument dated at Limerick about the year 1480. The church of this monastery was considered one of the finest which belonged to this celebrated order in Ireland.

We are informed that Archbishop Hacket founded a monastery in Cashel for Friars of the Franciscan order in 1250. But of all the churches that have been erected from time to time in this renowned ecclesiastical city, that built by Cormac MacCarthy nearly seven and a-half centuries ago, is the most perfect, and has been long considered the most beautiful in its style—that of the Saxon—to be seen in these countries. It is constructed entirely of cut stone, and divided into a nave and chancel, the length being 60 feet externally, and 50 feet internally. The breadth of the nave is about 26 feet, and the chancel of more limited dimensions; the walls are 5 feet thick. The roof, which is of very high pitch, is also of cut stone, and with the two square towers—one on the north and the other on the south—near the end of the chancel, can be seen to great advantage from the summit of the adjoining castle. The tower on the northern side, which

terminates in a conical roof, is not quite so high as that on the opposite side, and rising as it does by the side of the lofty cathedral, does not fall so immediately under the visitor's notice as does its fellow, which is roofless, with the upper story of coarse rubble masonry. The interior of this antique edifice is enriched with various mouldings and elaborately-wrought figures, consisting of grotesque human male heads, and fanciful creations in the shape of fabulous animals. The splendidly-arched roof, the supporting ribs of which spring from low pillars or pilasters, with capitals also variously ornamented, is exceedingly beautiful. The external wall of the south side is ornamented with blank arches, and a closed-up door, the arch of which is enriched with zig-zag mouldings. The entrance from the ruin of the grand cathedral is by a magnificent Norman arch, also decorated with chevron or zig-zag mouldings of a peculiarly rich description.

It may be considered somewhat strange that so much pains should have been taken to enrich and beautify a church of such limited dimensions as were those of this famous chapel; but to account for this, it may be observed that large churches were not at that time in use. It is also not a little surprising to find that after the lapse of so many ages, this fine remnant of antiquity is still to be seen in such a perfect state of preservation, having witnessed the ruin and dilapidation of not less than three of the grand cathedrals, the first of them, to which it formed the chapter-house, being built thirty-five years subsequent to its consecration. It must be remembered, however, that two of these grand structures suffered from the hand of ruthless violence, the first of them being burnt down by Gerald Fitz-Gerald, Earl of Kildare, in the year 1495, who, when he was arraigned in the presence of the English monarch in London, for the violence of his conduct in committing the sacrilegious act, pleaded the singular excuse that, in truth, he thought the archbishop was within it. The second of these holy fanes suffered severely by the hands of a descendant of the royal house of O'Brien, to whose munificence the first cathedral owed its existence. This spoiler was Lord Inchiquin, who, after the siege of Cahir in 1647, advanced against the city of Cashel, the royal seat of his ancestors, when the inhabitants took refuge in the cathedral. As we are informed, he proposed to leave them unmolested, on the condition of their paying a sum of £3,000, together with a month's pay for his army; which proposal being rejected, he took the sacred edifice by storm, and put a large number of the unoffending people to death, in which were included not less than twenty clergymen. In fact, the conduct of this degenerate Irishman, the base scion of a noble stock, outrivalled, if possible, that of Cromwell, Munroe, or any other of the fierce fanatical leaders who scourged his native country at this dreadful period. In order to account for the extraordinary part played on this occasion by a descendant of the house of O'Brien, it is merely necessary to say that Morrough O'Brien, Baron of Inchiquin, had been in the service of King Charles I., and being of an ambitious

disposition, he sought the presidency of Munster. But that monarch having given a preference to the Earl of Portland, he deserted the Royal standard, and arrayed himself with his inveterate adversaries, the Parliamentarians, from whom he received the entire command of the province of Munster, together with the title of president, which he had so long ambitioned. The present ruin, the third and last that claimed companionship with Cormac's Chapel, has succumbed to the rude hand of time, and was, when I saw it for the first time, in 1850, showing unmistakable symptoms of approaching dissolution; but thanks to the guardian care of the good and venerable Archdeacon Cotton, the hand of further ruin has been arrested, and such restorations effected upon it as will, I trust, preserve it for many a day to come. Such were the impressions made upon my mind in my last visits to the celebrated rock, which were made in the autumns of 1860 and 1861. The breaches in the walls caused by the falling of large fragments of them, were built up, and the unsightly rubbish removed, with the exception of one immense mass, which, from its great weight, it would be as difficult to remove, as from its density it would be next to impossible to separate. The ancient cathedral, of

ROCK OF CASHEL.

the ruins of which I am now speaking, was a spacious cruciform structure with a central tower, supported on lofty pointed arches. It

was in the Early English or Saxon style of architecture, the tower and other portions of the building being decorated with embattled ornaments, which to some extent gave it a military aspect; while its situation on the summit of the renowned rock rendered it an object as conspicuous as from its character it was absorbingly interesting. Like its founder, in whom were united royal and archiepiscopal functions, in it were combined the cathedral of the prelate, and the palace of the king, the royal residence occupying, together with the strong defensive castle at its western extremity, the portion which in ordinary churches constitutes the nave; and hence the apparent incongruity which at once attracts the notice of the visitor, the choir or chancel end being so much longer than the nave or body of the building. The magnificent clustered columns, from which at the intersection of the transepts spring the lofty arches that support the great central tower, command the admiration of the visitor, as do the finely-carved characteristic figures which represent the apostles. In the transepts are to be seen several monuments, some of them of considerable antiquity, and tombs which are of comparatively modern erection. These are commemorative of the Kearneys, Moores, and Pennefathers, the only families who possess the right of interment within the cathedral. Commodious stone stairs lead to the summit of the tower, the broken arched roof of which still exhibits evidence of Lord Inchiquin's violent assault; while others lead to that of the strong defensive castle, from which a splendid view of the surrounding champaign country, and in the distance the encircling lofty mountains, can be obtained. The grand east or chancel window has entirely fallen, but the transept windows, of three single tall lights, are still entire. The windows of the other portions of the building are tall and slender as seen from the outside, but their internal appearance, owing to their well-designed splays, shows a fine Gothic style. The vicar's hall or choral is on the south side of the cathedral; while the round tower, which is in good preservation, its stone roof being still entire, stands immediately adjoining the eastern angle of the north transept. This structure, which, like the majority of the ancient round towers so peculiar to this country, is found in such close proximity to the principal ecclesiastical building, affords evidence of the reasonableness of the opinion entertained by the learned archæologist, Dr. Petrie, who, after years of laborious investigation, has brought his mind to the conclusion that these buildings, concerning which such a diversity of opinion existed, are in reality ecclesiastical edifices, the construction of which ranges in date from the introduction of Christianity down to, perhaps, the close of the ninth or the early part of the tenth century.

Notwithstanding the extravagant theories suggested and put forward to account for the erection of these singular structures, and the analogies which were adduced in favour of the views entertained by the numerous critics and commentators regarding them, including those which had reference to the Phœnician, Indian, Danish, and

Celtic people, the generality of intelligent persons who have given attention to the subject now concur in the belief entertained by Dr. Petrie and his adherents, that these tall, slender, but still strong edifices, were designed not only for belfries and watch-towers, but also for places of security, where in times of contention or invasion the clergy might seek refuge, and, together with their valuable effects, including the sacred vessels and vestments connected with their ministry, find protection and impunity from the hands of the sacrilegious spoilers, whose ravages, especially after the Danish invasion, caused them such cruel and oft-repeated sufferings. A monument, which bears date 1621, was erected in the cathedral to Archbishop Magrath, who, as we are told, had it prepared a year before his death, and which represents him in a recumbent posture. The extent of the ground occupied by the ruins, including the churchyard, cannot be less than two acres.

Descending from the celebrated rock, the tourist should visit Hore Abbey, an ancient structure, and at present an interesting ruin, situated at a short distance from it on the south-west. This once important abbey gives name to a parish that comprises a portion of the circumjacent plain, which has been called St. Mary's of the Rock of Cashel. This monastery was originally founded for Friars of the Benedictine order, who, about the year 1270, gave place to a body of the brethren of the Cistercian order, to whom the Archbishop David MacCarvill, gave the possession of the abbey, and took upon himself their habit. It continued in the possession of its new occupants, who, as we are told, were brothers of the celebrated Mellifont Abbey, in the county of Louth, until the dissolution of the religious houses, when it was surrendered, with all its possessions, to the crown, and in 1561 was granted by Queen Elizabeth to Sir Henry Ratcliffe, Knt. It was subsequently granted to James Butler; and in the forty-second year of the same reign, as we are informed, was leased to Thomas Sinclair, at the nominal rent of two shillings. Of the church of this abbey there are considerable remains, most of which are still in a state of comparative preservation. They consist chiefly of the nave, choir, and central tower, the latter being supported on two lofty pointed arches; which, with the vaulting and rich groining, as well as many of the minor details, are considered of elegant design, and worthy of the notice of the architect and antiquarian. The nave was separated from the aisles by pointed arches, three on each side, those on the north side having fallen. The chancel window was composed of three lofty single lights that reached nearly to the summit of the gable. Above the heads of the finely-pointed arches that divide the south aisle from the nave are the nice clerestory windows, which were of quatrefoil character. This was a very extensive establishment, but many parts of it have yielded to the all-conquering hand of time, to which sublunary things in general are subjected. This remnant of former days can be seen to fine advantage from the south-western

extremity of the elevated rock. In the Roman Catholic divisions this parish forms part of the union of Cashel. The ancient and venerable city of Cashel is finely situated in the centre of an open plain, about two miles from the river Suir, which has its source in a hilly range near Roscrea, and is included in the barony of Middlethird, about 100 miles from Dublin, and six from the railway station at Gould's Cross. It consists of one principal street, from which others branch off somewhat irregularly, and may be said to occupy the lower portions of the south and east sides of the celebrated and isolated rock. It appears that a charter of incorporation was conferred upon it so early as the year 1216, of which renewals were made from time to time, and under which it was governed till the abolition of the corporation in the year 1841 under the provisions of the Irish Municipal Corporations Act. Honourable mention is made of the hospitality and kindness experienced by several of the adherents of William III., who were wounded in the attack upon Limerick, at the hands of the inhabitants of Cashel; in consideration of which that monarch granted them a renewal of their charter, by a letter said to have been written by him on the bridge of Golden, about four miles from the city; which letter is still supposed to be in the possession of the body that at present governs the municipality. The former governing body, consisting of the mayor, burgesses, and freemen, has been succeeded by a body of Towns Commissioners, under the Towns Improvement Act. Subsequently to the above-mentioned change in the law the income derived from the corporate lands has been considerably increased; this arose from some leases which were executed by the old corporation having been set aside by the decision of the courts. The income at present exceeds £1000 a year, portions of which have been allocated for various public purposes by the courts' award. A certain annual amount has been appropriated for the education of boys under the direction of the parish priest; and a further sum, under the same direction, settled for that of girls by the ladies of the Presentation Convent. In addition to these grants the National Board of Education aids with its funds these valuable institutions, and thereby enables a large number of children of both sexes to participate in their paramount advantages. An annual sum has also been placed at the disposal of the rector for similar objects. Sums have likewise been granted for lighting the city with gas, and for conveying an additional supply of water to the inhabitants, by pipes, from a distance of two miles. At a short distance from the foot of the august and venerable rock, whose courtly buildings and sacred fanes constituted it, for many ages, the grand seat of regal and episcopal authority, is situated the Protestant archiepiscopal palace, now the residence of the dean of the diocese, and his two curates. It is a spacious and well built mansion, with extensive gardens, from which the magnificent ruins on the rock appear strikingly conspicuous. Among the curiosities connected with the

venerable ruins is the stone upon which, according to tradition, the Kings of Munster were wont to be inaugurated, which is situated on the side of the acclivity south of the cathedral. Adjacent to the palace just mentioned, in one of the present back streets, may be seen the ruins of the Dominican friary already alluded to, which consist of the side walls of the nave and choir, with the tall central tower. The Protestant church, also called the cathedral, is a fine spacious stone structure, with an ornamental tower and lofty spire. At a short distance from the church, and within the churchyard, is a building designated the Library. The Catholic church of St. John's, situated in Friar Street, is a commodious and elegant edifice, with a handsome front of cut stone, enriched with a fine tower and steeple. In the rear of this very fine church is the convent of the Presentation order, where, as before mentioned, numbers of female children are educated. In the main-street stands a strong defensive square tower of the ordinary class, which has been long designated the "Clock Castle." In this vicinity there is also a Wesleyan Methodist chapel. In this street has lately been erected a new and handsome house for the branch of the National Bank which has for many years been established in the town. It is somewhat in the style of the new and elegant National Bank of Clonmel, having a neat cut stone front; but it is neither so large nor so richly ornamented. The Court House and attached bridewell, the former a neat stone building well adapted to the public business, are situated in the south part of the city. The infirmary—a good building—and the Fever Hospital are situated near the large open space called the Green. The military barracks, which are capable of accommodating two companies of infantry, occupy three sides of a square, and may be said to constitute a tolerable range of buildings. The union workhouse, which is situated on a gentle eminence beyond the suburbs, was on the occasion of my last visit showing a gratifying decrease in the number of its inmates. Indeed, the city in general, when contrasted with what it appeared when I paid my first visit in 1850, is at present showing unmistakable evidence of improvement. The markets, which are well supplied, are held on Wednesday and Saturday; and fairs on the 26th of March and 7th of August, besides which there is a fair in the first week of each month. There is a long-established race-course in the neighbourhood of the city; and several handsome seats appear in the surrounding district.

Proceeding from the "City of the Kings," as the great O'Connell was wont to call it, the tourist, on his route to Holy Cross Abbey, will pass by Longfield, the fine seat of Charles Bianconi, Esq., J.P., whose energy and enterprise in opening up a general intercourse with distant and heretofore inaccessible parts of the island have done more for the development of the resources of the country than has resulted from the efforts of any single man of the age in which we live. This fine demesne, which derives its name from the family of Long, its

former owners, was, together with the estate of which it forms a part, purchased some years ago by the present proprietor. The handsome mansion is favourably situated on a gentle elevation, from which can be obtained a fine view of the richly-planted grounds which extend in front and on either side of it. In the hall are some fine specimens of statuary; and in the principal rooms, which are elegantly furnished, splendid paintings by some of the Italian masters; one of them a magnificent picture of the Israelites prior to the crossing of the Red Sea. In the rear of the house a new avenue was at this time being opened, and a nice new house erected as a residence for the steward; while on several parts of the estate handsome slated houses had been lately built by this distinguished utilitarian and excellent landlord, for the accommodation of his tenants. On this estate are the remains of a couple of ancient castles, one of which is in tolerable preservation; and on the eastern bank of the river Suir, which flows through it, near the extensive bridge of Ardmayle, are the ruins of a large castellated structure, formerly the residence of the Butlers, from one of the several mullioned windows of which, it is said, Cromwell ordered the proprietor to be hanged, for having, as has been alleged, refused to hold his stirrup while he mounted his charger. The Protestant church of Ardmayle, a comparatively modern structure, attached to an ancient tower, crowned with an embattled turret, is also situated on Mr. Bianconi's estate; as is the Roman Catholic church of Boherlahan, a commodious cruciform edifice, of long standing. At the latter place, immediately south of the church, has recently been erected a very beautiful mortuary chapel, in which have been deposited the remains of Mr. Bianconi's eldest daughter, who died some years ago at Pisa, and who was interred in the celebrated Campo Santo. Her affectionate father, having determined to make the land of his adoption his final resting-place, caused this elegant chapel to be erected on a well-selected space, which he enclosed as a cemetery; that, together with the chapel, which constitutes the family vault, was consecrated by his Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Leahy, Archbishop of Cashel, on the 3rd of October, 1861. This interesting cemetery, which is 365 feet in length and 100 feet in breadth, is entered by a handsome gate, with side wickets, formed within a semicircular sweep of the boundary wall. A commodious walk leads from the principal gate to the entrance of the nice temple, which stands at the extremity of the enclosed area, and, like those that extend in a direct line from the side wickets, is bordered with saplings of yew, cypress, and cedar; while the intermediate spaces present a fine verdant appearance. In the southern boundary wall are inserted, at regular distances, the "Stations of the Cross," in rich panels, composed of terra-cotta, which give to the cemetery a peculiarly pleasing and devotional aspect. At the northern extremity of the beautiful little church, which is 25 feet in length, 15 in breadth, and 20 in height to the eave course, rises an elegant campanile, in the upper story of which is a good bell,

In the front of this unique chapel, in which are three handsome windows, are inserted two nice tablets, upon one of which, in gold letters, is recorded the foundation of the church, dedicated to St. Catherine, which was erected by Charles Bianconi, as a burial-place for himself and family, in the year 1857. On the other, which bears date 1858, it is stated that the cemetery, with the bell therein placed, was dedicated by him to the Roman Catholic inhabitants of Ardmayle. The apex of this mortuary gem is crowned with a characteristic stone cross. The splendid monument erected to the memory of the young and beautiful deceased by her sorrowing father, which is considered a rare specimen of artistic skill, was prepared by the celebrated Cavatini Benzoni, of Rome, he who executed the monument, at Mr. Bianconi's expense, of the illustrious Daniel O'Connell, in the Church of St. Agatha, in that city. This exquisite effort of genius, which is 17 feet in height and 7½ in breadth, together with the figure of the "Angel of Purity," in Carrara marble, is exceedingly beautiful; while the tablet representing the lamented deceased in her last illness, with the emblematic figures of Faith, Hope, and Charity, is of the most touching and interesting character. In a semicircular apse at the end of the church is the nice altar of black marble, over which three stained-glass windows shed their mellow and subdued light; while immediately opposite the monument is a handsome metal gallery, which is approached by the winding stairs in the campanile, and is occupied by the Bianconi family during the time of prayer.

Leaving this very interesting place, the tourist will soon arrive at Holy Cross Abbey, which is situated on the margin of the river Suir, about three statute miles from Thurles. This renowned abbey, which caused the surrounding country to be constituted a parish, under the designation of the country of the Holy Cross, is supposed to owe its foundation to Donogh Carbrach O'Brien, King of Limerick, whose father founded the Cathedral of Cashel, and, soon after, St. Mary's Cathedral at Limerick. This venerable abbey was built in the year 1182, and its founder, besides endowing it with lands, conferred the title of earl on its abbot, who, as well as the brethren under his control, was of the Cistercian order. This title continued to be borne by his successors, who sat as barons in parliament. The grant thus made by the King of Limerick was confirmed by John, Earl of Moreton, during the lifetime of his father, Henry II.; by Henry III. in the year 1233; and by Richard II. in 1395. The monastery so amply endowed continued to flourish till the period of the dissolution of religious houses, when it was granted by Queen Elizabeth to Gerald, Earl of Ormonde, at an annual rent of £15 10s. The ruins, which are of considerable extent and of picturesque character, consist principally of the nave, choir, and transepts of the church, with a lofty square tower supported on four magnificent pointed arches, which open to the choir and transepts. The canopy formed by the under portion of the tower, with its exquisite groinings, reminds the

visitor of the splendid vaulting of that—above which rises the lofty tower—at Hore Abbey. In the centre of the vaulted canopy here, as in that just mentioned, is seen the circular aperture through which the rope used in tolling the bell of the tower passed. The nave is divided from the aisles by a series of beautiful arches, four on each side, those on the south being of the rounded or Norman style, while those on the north are of the pointed Gothic. There are likewise several chapels, which, like the tower, are constructed of marble and limestone. They are considered of more elegant design, and in their details display more elaborate embellishment, than even the other parts of the church. The chancel window of five mullions and six principal lights, with its elegant head tracery, which displays twenty-five lights, is very grand. The west window of the nave, also of five mullions, is in the perpendicular style, and shows in its finely-embellished head twelve lights. The aisle windows are of two mullions, with splendid traceried heads, which show great variety in their several details. The altar table beneath the chancel window, from its great antiquity, must be considered a rare curiosity; the material of which it is composed resembles the other monumental stones, many of which, of long standing, are to be seen in the chancel part of the church. A very remarkable sculptured monument, surmounted by a richly-moulded arch, is placed on the Gospel side of the altar. The sedilia and piscina, with their exquisite carving, are beautiful in the extreme. The name of this renowned abbey is derived from a piece of the cross on which our Blessed Redeemer suffered, which was sent over to this country by Pope Paschal II. This most interesting relic was kept in the abbey till the time of the Reformation. In the south aisle is a monument to the memory of one of the Kearney family. Among the tombs is one decorated with a sculptured cross, but without any inscription. This plain monument is stated by O'Halloran, the historian, to be that of the royal founder, who was interred here. Tradition, however, would lead to the supposition that it is the tomb of a female called the "Good Woman," to whom is ascribed the high and distinguished honour of conveying to this country the portion of the holy cross that was deposited here. Between two of the elegant side chapels in the south aisle is an oblong space, protected on each side by a range of nice pointed arches that spring from light and finely-wrought twisted columns. In this recess, it is alleged, the deceased brethren of the abbey were wont to be waked. There are also to be seen some remains of the cloisters, chapter-house, and conventual buildings, the richly-moulded doors and windows of which, as well as those of the church, partake of the enriched Gothic style. It is more than probable, however, that these specimens were of comparatively modern introduction, as we are informed, on high authority, that this church was so often restored and improved that all the characteristics of its first Saxon style have disappeared. Upon these—perhaps some of the most interesting church ruins in Ireland—great

care has been bestowed by the rector, the Rev. Mr. Wall, who, like the good and venerable Archdeacon Cotton, at Cashel, has made such partial, yet valuable, restorations as will preserve them in their present state for some years. The parish of Holy Cross is situated in the barony of Eliogarty, and partly in that of Middlethird. The Protestant church, a neat edifice, decorated with a tower, stands on an eminence at some distance from the grand abbey. The Catholic church, a handsome structure, with a nice stone front, is situated still nearer to this renowned and venerable ruin.

The neighbouring town of Thurles, like most of the towns in this section of the county of Tipperary, is pleasantly seated on the banks of the Suir, by which it is divided into two nearly equal parts, connected with each other by a plain stone bridge. It consists of one long and very wide street, from each extremity of which smaller ones branch off in various directions. In the centre of the widest part of the main street is situated the market-house, the under portion of which is used as shambles; while the upper part is appropriated to assembly-rooms, which are occasionally used for purposes of amusement. The roadway running on each side of this building is as wide as the main streets of some of our old towns. The property on which the town stands is part of the estate of the representative of the Matthew family. Thurles is a parish in the barony of Eliogarty, about twenty-five miles from Clonmel, and seventy-five from Dublin. It is of considerable antiquity, and in the tenth century was the scene of a fierce and memorable battle between the Danes and the native Irish, in which the former were signally defeated. We are also informed that soon after the English invasion, the Ostmen or Danes of Dublin experienced a humiliating defeat here, having lost 400 men, and four of their principal commanders. On this occasion, the Northmen marched from Dublin to reinforce Earl Strongbow, who was then encamped in the neighbourhood of Cashel; but having halted at Thurles, they were attacked by O'Brien, Prince of Thomond, who, after defeating them, subsequently encountered a large body of the English who were marching in this direction, whom he attacked with such intrepidity as to cause them to retreat. A strong castle, which appears to have been erected here at an early period, was, in 1208, besieged by Hugh de Lacy, and taken from Geoffrey MacMorris, by whom it was then occupied.

We find that in the year 1300 a monastery was founded here for Carmelites or White Friars, by a member of the Butler family. On the dissolution of the religious houses, this monastery, with all its possessions, was granted to Thomas, Earl of Ormonde. It has been stated that a preceptory of Knights Templars had been founded in Thurles; but there appears to be no authentic record of such establishment at present in existence. The principal castle of this place is said to have been built by James Butler, the first Lord Palatine of the county of Tipperary, one of whose descendants was in 1535

created Viscount Thurles. This castle, during the Parliamentary war, was garrisoned for the king, but was ultimately taken by the Parliamentary forces, by whom it was completely dismantled. The ruin of this stronghold is situated at the eastern end of the main street, and being close to the bridge is therefore called the Bridge Castle. It at present consists of a large quadrangular keep, with embattled walls. Another castellated ruin, of smaller dimensions, stands at the western extremity of the same street; it is called Gatna-Garlock Castle, and is said to have belonged to the Knights Templars already alluded to.

At this point are the remains of a strong circular bastion, which was called the Gate Castle, a gate having formerly stood across the street at this place. There was formerly a commodious military barrack here, which was burned down within the last fifty years. We are informed that the Catholic Cathedral stands on the site of what was formerly the Franciscan monastery, founded in the fifteenth century by the O'Meaghers, chieftains of the district. Manus O'Fohily, the last abbot of this establishment, is said to have refused to surrender the premises at the period of the dissolution of the religious houses, and consequently was conveyed as a prisoner to Dublin. This cathedral is a very fine modern structure, of moderate dimensions and cruciform character. Its nicely-ornamented front is embellished with a handsome clock, while in the rear of the chancel rises a light and lofty campanile, with a surrounding railing near its summit. Its internal appearance, which is at once chaste and beautiful, excites the admiration of the visitor, especially its elegant altar, which, from its style and finish, is considered one of the finest of its kind in Ireland. A splendid painting of our Lord's Crucifixion is placed above the grand altar, while upon each side of it is a finely-formed niche; that on the Gospel side containing a full-length statue of the Blessed Virgin and her Sacred Infant; and that on the Epistle side, a full-size figure of St. Joseph. Over the side altar, on the Gospel side, is a fine painting of the Holy Virgin and Child, with one of the Sacred Heart of Jesus beneath it. Over that on the Epistle side is an excellent painting of our Blessed Redeemer, with an angel in the act of presenting to him the bitter chalice.

This handsome church was finished at a cost of £10,000. It is entered in the highly-ornamented western gable by a large centre and two side doors, over which are well-proportioned windows, the finely-rounded arched heads of which are filled with nice tracery. A centre and two side windows occupy each end of the transept, while the nave is lighted on each side by beautiful windows of corresponding richness. There is a gallery in each transept, as well as in the end of the nave, and, from the lofty proportions of the church, and the height of the richly-groined ceilings, they afford ample accommodation, while they do not overcrowd nor darken the church.

In the immediate vicinity of the cathedral is situated the palace of his Grace the Most Rev. Doctor Leahy, Archbishop of Cashel

and Emly; and in the same vicinity are situated the convents of the Ursuline and Presentation Nuns. On my visit to this town in the autumn of 1860, I was favoured with the privilege of being allowed to enter them, and found everything within and about them such as might naturally be expected to be seen in religious establishments of such long standing, and, from their enviable position at the seat of archiepiscopal dignity, of more than ordinary importance. At the Ursuline convent a new chapel was at this time being commenced, which was finished in the autumn of 1861, and consecrated by his Grace the Archbishop, on Monday, the 11th of November of that year. The chapel of the Presentation convent is very beautiful, and the reception rooms and corridors of both establishments appropriately decorated and embellished with choice paintings, all of which have reference to that divine and holy religion to which the pious Sisters have devoted themselves. The gardens are extensive and judiciously laid out, and enriched with elegant statues, including those of the Blessed Virgin, St. Joseph, St. Patrick, and other distinguished saints. In these interesting institutions large numbers of girls are educated and instructed in various works, including all sorts of needlework, lace-making, washing and doing-up clothes, and glove-making. The latter valuable and important employment is confined to the school of the Presentation convent, and it was an exceedingly agreeable sight to see so many young persons at work in this department. White kid and other delicate leathers are imported from France, and when manufactured here, are sent to various places, where they find a ready sale. Some improvements were at this time contemplated at this establishment, in which were included the enlargement of the schools.

St. Patrick's College, founded in the year 1836, for the liberal education of the Roman Catholic young gentlemen of the archdiocese who aspire to the honour and dignity of the priesthood, is finely situated at the extremity of an extensive lawn, comprising twenty-five acres. This very beautiful lawn is bounded on one side by the river Suir, and is entered by a large curving gateway, upon each of the side piers of which stands an ornamental spread-eagle. This noble institution may be said to constitute a fine range of buildings, forming three sides of a square, with sixty-two windows in the grand façade, which is about 260 feet in extent, and about the same number in the rear. In the north front, which is about 136 feet in length, there are twenty-four windows; and in that of the south, which is 68 feet long, are twelve windows. The north wing having been recently enlarged, will account for the difference of the area of extension between that and the south side. A similar addition to the south wing is in contemplation, whereby the entire will be rendered perfectly uniform. The internal accommodation is at once ample and commodious, the refectory being capable of dining 300 persons; while the library is a splendid chamber. There are six class-rooms, each of them capable

of affording studying accommodation to sixty-four students; and thirty-four students' rooms branching from each of the several corridors. In the month of October, 1860, an artist of high repute was engaged in taking sittings of his Grace the Archbishop, at the college, with a view of painting a portrait of his lordship, which, from his saintly character and his rare personal graces, will doubtless prove to be a beautiful picture. In the hall of the college are several fine busts, one of his Holiness the present Pope, one of the Liberator, one of Dr. Doyle, one of Dr. Kenny, a full-length figure of St. Patrick, and also figures of the Virgin and Child, and of St. Joseph.

The Protestant church, a handsome moderate-sized edifice, is finely situated in the centre of the popular burial-ground of the parish, in which are to be seen some ancient tombs and richly-sculptured figures. This church was erected in this the eastern end of the town by a loan of £2,000, advanced by the Board of First Fruits. The glebe comprises sixty-eight statute acres, with a glebe-house, which was erected by a loan of £1,500, and a gift of £100 by the same board. It affords me much pleasure to say that Thurles, like most of the other towns in this province, is at present showing unmistakable signs of improvement; evidence of such is to be found in the new houses, some four or five in number, and a range of stores, which were being erected in the month of October, 1860. This desirable state of things is owing in a great measure to the liberality of Count Chabôt, the representative of the Matthew family, and the landlord of the property on which the town stands; the money for erecting these buildings, under certain arrangements, being advanced by him. While in Thurles on this occasion, a meeting of the inhabitants was held at the hotel where I was stopping, for the purpose of taking into consideration the expediency of lighting the town with gas. There is a branch of the National Bank of Ireland here. Thurles being situated in the centre of a populous district, and the land of a rich and fertile quality, and exceedingly well cultivated, the markets are amply supplied with corn, in which article a brisk trade was wont to be carried on with Clonmel, but which, since the extension of railways, is not confined exclusively to that town. The markets are held on Tuesday and Saturday, and fairs on the first Tuesday in each month, on Easter Monday, and on the 21st days of August and December. There is a neat Sessions House here, with an attached bridewell, and also a dispensary. There are likewise a couple of comfortable hotels in the town.

Proceeding to the town of Templemore, the tourist will pass through a fine rich country, and at the Dundrum station of the railway, should leisure permit, may avail himself of the opportunity to pay a visit to the new and handsome village of that place, and the magnificent seat of Lord Viscount Hawarden, which, from its great extent and unquestionable beauty, will amply repay the time consumed in the enjoyment of the delectable treat thus afforded him. Again availing himself

of the train, he will in due time arrive at Templemore, a clean and handsome town about thirty miles from Clonmel, and sixty-five from Dublin. This town, which is situated near a branch of the river Suir, is supposed to owe its origin, as well as its name, to its having been at one time the abode of a branch of the order of Knights Templars, who are said to have occupied the ancient castle, the remains of which form one of the entrances to the demesne of Sir John Carden, Bart., the lord of the soil. This fine demesne is of great extent, and is entirely surrounded by a substantial wall. On a portion of this property, apart from the demesne, is a handsome residence called the Priory. The streets are wide and commodious, the principal of them being nearly half a mile in length. Richmond Road, which extends beyond the bridge that spans the intersecting river, which divides the western end of the town from the adjoining suburb, is a spacious and delightful promenade, being lined and skirted on each side with spreading trees and rich plantations. The boundary wall of the grand demesne of Sir John Carden, already mentioned, extends along the north side of this splendid roadway; while on the opposite or south side charming villas and ornamental cottages appear at certain intervals, and give an air of gracefulness and beauty rarely to be seen in the vicinity of towns of this class. That part upon which these nice terrace houses and villas have been erected is called the Mall. At the extremity of this fine avenue, which is nearly half a mile in length, is the entrance to the military barracks, which are very extensive, being capable of accommodating about 1,500 infantry, with stabling for some thirty or forty horses, and hospital accommodation for about 100 patients. There is a commodious market-house in the centre of the main street; and in a street which branches from the main street, opposite the market-house, is situated the bridewell. This street, which, extending in a southerly direction, leads to the railway station, is called Jail Street. Another good street, which branches in a northerly direction in the eastern end of the town, is called Church Street, from the Protestant church—a handsome structure with a pinnacled tower and neat spire—being situated in it. The Catholic church is situated immediately south of the eastern extremity of the main street, and is a good house of worship, of cruciform construction and long standing, with a gallery in each transept as well as in the western end of the nave. The Very Rev. Dr. O'Connor, the parish priest, and his curates reside in a handsome cottage-like house beside the entrance to the church. This excellent ecclesiastic and highly-accomplished gentleman, at the time I paid my visit, contemplated the establishment of a nunnery in the town. The market, which is held on Wednesday, is very well attended, and the fairs, of which there are eight in the year, resorted to by purchasers from distant places, the supply of stock being very abundant.

Leaving Templemore by the line of road leading to Roscrea, the tourist will obtain many bold and interesting views, and amongst

others the "Devil's Bit," a mountain of a remarkably wild and peculiar appearance. In the vicinity of this striking and singular feature is situated the demesne of Barna, the fine seat of John Carden, Esq., the richly-wooded undulations of which are occasionally open to the view, and are rendered unmistakably conspicuous by the lofty circular tower which stands immediately south of the above-mentioned rugged mountain. This graceful and remarkable structure is based on a fine sloping eminence, and contains within it some well-furnished apartments, which are thrown open for the inspection of respectable strangers who visit this beautiful and picturesque demesne. About half-way between Templemore and Roscrea, on the side of a mountain which is part of the chain extending from Borrisoleigh, rises the spring that forms the source of the river Suir, which passes through Thurles, Cahir, Clonmel, Carrick-on-Suir, and Waterford, and thence flows, with the Barrow, into the sea. Arriving at the ancient town of Roscrea, the tourist will find food for the gratification of his antiquarian predilections, as it is supposed to owe its existence to a monastery founded here so early as the year 620, by St. Cronan, who flourished at this period, and was interred in the church of that establishment, which was appropriated by him to Canons Regular of the order of St. Augustine. The Protestant church, which was erected in 1812, is situated within the burial-ground, near the site of the ancient abbey, the western gable of which is still standing; its finely decorated arched doorway forming the entrance to the churchyard. On each side of this doorway are two ornamental flat niches, the arches of which correspond in style and decoration with the splendid arch of the grand entrance. On the opposite side of the street or roadway, about 45 feet north-west of the gable of the old church just mentioned, is the ancient round tower, which accords in style and appearance with the several monuments of similar character which are so frequently to be met with in the vicinity of the ruined abbeys and ancient churches in this country. This tower is about 80 feet in height, with the door or entrance some 15 feet from the ground. About the same number of feet above the entrance is a pointed window. It is recorded that in the year 942, Roscrea was attacked by the Danes, who were successfully resisted by the people of the town, by whom they were defeated with great loss, and their principal commander slain.

In the year 1213, King John is said to have built a castle here, of which there is a remnant, in the form of a circular tower, to be seen in a street called the Mall. We are informed that a Franciscan friary was founded here in the year 1490, by a native chieftain, O'Carrol, which at the dissolution of religious houses was granted to Thomas, Earl of Ormonde. This establishment, the remains of which are in tolerable preservation, was erected on the margin of the river which flows through this part of the town, and is a tributary of the Brosna. The old Roman Catholic Church of the town was situated imme-

diately in the rear of the ancient conventual church, the entrance to which was beneath the lofty arch, above which rises the abbey tower of three distinct stages, that at present serves as a bell-tower for the new Catholic church recently built on a gentle eminence on the opposite side of the river, which is crossed by a new and handsome bridge. The entrance to the new and elegant structure continues to be, as heretofore, beneath the archway of the ancient tower; and to render the passage more spacious and open, the old church was in the autumn of 1856 being removed, while the connecting bridge was nearly finished. The magnificent new church which is thus approached is in the enriched Gothic style of architecture, with a tower at its western end that rises no higher than the roof of the church. This departure from the original design of the building was occasioned by the foundation being considered inadequate for the support of such a weight as the tower and spire would superinduce, and therefore the intention of raising them was abandoned, and the tower has been covered in with the remainder of the roof of the building. Above the vestibule formed in the lower part of the tower is the organ gallery, the front of which, as seen from the interior of the church, is supported by three beautiful arches. The apse or chancel has a handsome elongated window in each of its five sides. The aisles are divided from the nave by a series of splendid arches, supported by rich characteristic columns, the whole church presenting a light and elegant appearance.

Mr. Dean Butler, of Dublin, the designer of the grand Cathedral of Kilkenny, was also the architect of this fine church; and hence the general characteristics of the Pugin style have in some measure been departed from, and one of a more florid and enriched character, at least in some of the details, introduced. The interior of the church was not at this time entirely finished, but the excellent parish priest, Father Blake, was pushing on the work with becoming vigour. It must be confessed, however, that considering the severity of the pressure through which the people of this country in general had then passed, and taking into account the size of the town and the costly nature of the building, it required great efforts and noble sacrifices to construct and finish so large and beautiful a church.

On a lofty eminence at some distance south of the church is situated the Nunnery of the Sacred Heart, formerly of the order of St. Bridget, but recently united with the sisterhood of the former order, the superioress of which, and her principal assistant, are French ladies. This convent, originally a spacious mansion, and the residence of a private gentleman, has had considerable additions made to it, and is now a very large establishment, in which over 100 young ladies are accommodated as boarders. The principal school-room is of very large proportions, and is at once lofty and healthful. It was a very interesting sight to see so many young and beautiful creatures, with their respective instructors, all Sisters of the sacred order to which the

institution belongs. The chapel of the convent is a noble apartment 80 feet in length by 26 in breadth, its height being in proportion to its other dimensions. In almost every room of the establishment there are pianofortes, at which the pupils at certain intervals practise their music. Some of the young ladies play magnificently, and by their style and execution reflect the highest credit on their preceptors. The grounds and gardens are very extensive, and afford ample exercise for the ladies of the convent and their interesting pupils. The castle, built by the Ormonde or Butler family, is situated in the centre of the town, immediately opposite Browne's hotel, a well-conducted establishment. In the adjoining area, which may be considered the court of the castle, are situated the military barracks, capable of accommodating a full company of infantry, with stabling for a few horses, and a limited hospital. The mansion formerly the residence of the Dunne family, a fine square house, has been converted into the barracks just mentioned. Roscrea may be designated a border town, being a parish partly in the baronies of Clonlisk and Ballybritt, in the King's county, and province of Leinster, but chiefly in the barony of Ikerrin, county of Tipperary, and province of Munster. It is about thirty-five miles from Limerick, and forty from Dublin. It is a place of great antiquity, and was formerly the seat of a diocese, but during the twelfth century it was united to the diocese of Killaloe. It is apparently a good business place, the markets, which are held on Thursday and Saturday, being well supplied and largely attended; while the fairs, of which there are six in the year, exhibit large quantities of stock, and are resorted to by buyers from other counties. There is a small market-house in the town. Here also have been established branches of the Bank of Ireland and National Bank. An extension of the Great Southern and Western railway was at this time in progress of construction between this town and the Ballybrophy station, which has since been opened for traffic, and a further extension of the same line opened between Roscrea and Parson's-town. The opening of railway accommodation to these towns must have been attended with the best results, not only to them but to this part of Ireland in general. In the churchyard of the abbey are some curious remains, and amongst others a circular cross richly sculptured with what was intended as a representation of our Redeemer's Crucifixion. It is stated that St. Canice, while residing here, wrote a copy of the four Gospels, which was designated the Chain of Canice, and which, so late as the time of the learned Archbishop Usher, was preserved in the ancient abbey. In the rear of the Franciscan convent, and between it and the former Catholic church, is a burial-ground, in which are some ancient monuments. There is a library or school near the site of the former chapel, in what was known as the Chapel House.

CHAPTER XXI.

LIMERICK CITY, AND TOWNS BORDERING ON THE RIVER SHANNON.

THE tourist who for the first time visits the city of Limerick must be greatly struck with its prepossessing appearance; the pleasing regularity of its streets, and the uniformity of its houses, being such as to excite his unqualified admiration. Should he be an Irishman, the appearance of its fine stalwart men and its beautiful women must cause him to feel more than an ordinary degree of pride, while he claims them as natives of his own dear and beloved fatherland. This city, although not so large as Cork, is much more regular and beautiful, especially that part of it which is situated south of the Shannon.

George's Street and Patrick's Street form one continuous line of nearly an English mile in length, with streets equally good branching from them at right angles. The houses are large, and preserve, generally speaking, a degree of uniformity which gives to the whole a truly city-like aspect. Such, at least, are the characteristics of that portion of it designated Newtown, or Newtown Pery, which has been brought into existence within the last century. The more ancient parts, known under the denominations of the English town and the Irish town, are of comparatively plain and common-place character; the first occupying what has been termed the King's Island, which is formed by a branch of the Shannon as it passes beneath Park Bridge, on its eastern extremity, and, sweeping in a curving form, flows in a rapid course under the new or Abbey Bridge, at the eastern end of Patrick's Street, and on the western side of the island. This important and ancient city, which is about fifty-one miles from Cork, and ninety-four from Dublin, is said to have been visited by St. Patrick about the middle of the fifth century; who, as we are informed, either at this time or at a subsequent period, consecrated St. Munchin a bishop. Later accounts inform us that Limerick became a Danish settlement—these daring adventurers having plundered it in the year 812, and about the middle of the same century constituted it one of their principal maritime stations. For nearly a century, as we are informed, their power continued to increase, during which period they surrounded that portion now occupied by the English town with walls and defensive towers. But when Brian

Boru assumed the dominion of Munster and Thomond, he not only expelled these fierce and obtrusive strangers from Inniscattery, but also reduced Limerick. When the good and pious Murtogh gave up Cashel to the Church, he removed the seat of royalty to this city, in 1166, from which time it continued to be the residence of the Kings of Thomond, or North Munster; from this change, his successors were styled Kings of Limerick, as well as of North Munster.

Soon after Henry II. arrived in this country he obtained the possession of Limerick, where he placed a garrison; but after his departure, Donald O'Brien, King of Thomond, regained the possession of it. Of the various chequered and interesting events that followed the establishment of the power and domination of England in this important section of the island, it will not be expected that I should enter on a regular detail, as in doing so I should necessarily be obliged to follow the track of those whose province it was to treat exclusively of matters appertaining to general history.

From the commencement of the reign of James I. until the great war of 1641, Limerick is said to have enjoyed undisturbed tranquillity; and the consequence was, that considerable improvements in the construction of buildings and public works took place. But the events which grew out of this disastrous war, which ended in the siege conducted by Ireton, the commander of the parliamentary forces, proved to be seriously damaging to the city. After various privations and sufferings arising from famine and its dread concomitants, pestilential diseases, the city was ultimately surrendered to the besiegers on condition that the garrison should march out unarmed, and the inhabitants be allowed time for removing their effects to any place where they might be appointed to live. After the surrender the emblems of royalty were removed, the magistrates displaced, and for the space of five years the city was subjected to a military government. At the Restoration, however, all the banished merchants were again restored to their freedom and privileges, on entering into recognisances for their peaceful demeanour.

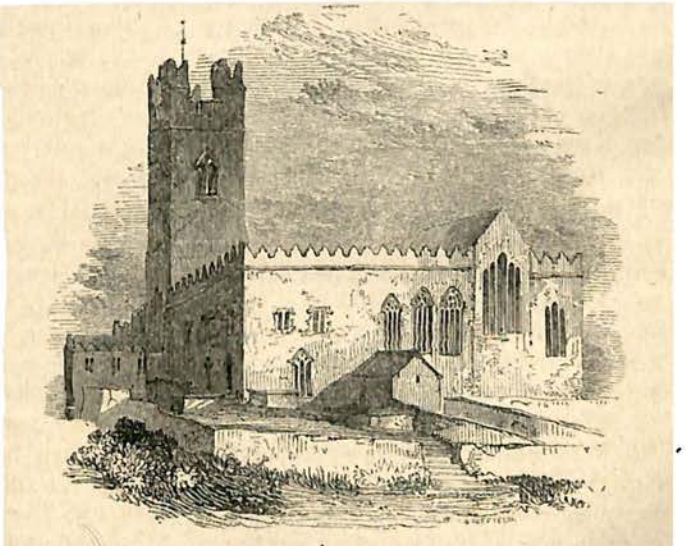
On the accession of James II., an alteration in the religious ascendency of the corporation took place; and after the battle of the Boyne, the Earl of Tyrconnel established his vice-regal court in the city. Soon after this time Limerick was invested by King William in person, at the head of 20,000 veterans; but from the city's being defended by strong fortifications, and amply supplied with the munitions of war—as well as from the circumstance of the best portion of the Irish army being assembled within and around it—the besieging forces had no trifling obstacles to contend with. Among the most distinguished leaders in command of the Irish forces, were the Duke of Berwick, and Generals Boiseleau and Sarsfield. These consummate soldiers were well supplied with provisions for their army, not only from Connaught, but by sea; where the French fleet rode in undisturbed security. The Williamite army sustained an early loss

in the destruction of its battering train, which had been intercepted, and rendered entirely useless, by the ever watchful and intrepid Sarsfield. This gallant and successful attack, which took place within twelve miles of William's camp, considerably retarded the operations of his besieging force. Notwithstanding this galling and partial defeat, the besiegers, after considerable delay, succeeded in effecting a breach in the wall, and three times penetrated into the city, but were as often beaten back; and, ultimately, after a desperate conflict of four hours, they were obliged to retire with a loss of 1,700 men. In consequence of this discomfiture, King William was compelled to raise the siege, and retired with his army to Clonmel. In the August following, however, William's army, under the command of General Ginkell, again appeared before the city walls; but the garrison having in the interim been abundantly supplied with provisions, and in daily expectation of succour from France, resolved to resist every assault on the part of the besiegers, and the result was that the siege became at once protracted and sanguinary.

There is no event, perhaps, recorded in the pages of our nation's history more worthy of praise and admiration than that of which we are now speaking, nor one that reflects greater honour upon the parties engaged in it. Indeed, the people of Limerick by their indomitable energy and courage on this occasion, have won undying laurels, the splendour of whose glory even time itself can neither dim nor obliterate. Here the fair women of the city stood beside its brave men, and like the more modern maids and matrons of Saragossa, by their high example and their deeds of daring and heroism, inspirited them to the performance of such acts of gallantry as have endeared their memory to their descendants, and to the respect and gratitude of posterity in general. But however great the bravery and devotion of the besieged, it was impossible that they could be expected to succeed against the power and resources of a now potent monarch, who had successfully established his rule over the other portions of the island. The consequence was, that operations were soon after terminated by the celebrated treaty of Limerick, which was ratified on the 1st of October, and signed on the large stone still to be seen at the foot of Thomond Gate Bridge, within sight of both armies. Two days after the surrender of the city the French fleet arrived off the coast, and on the 14th entered the Shannon with a reinforcement of troops and 30,000 stand of arms. Limerick exercised corporate rights by prescription at a very early period, which rights were subsequently confirmed and regulated by charter.

The first documentary grant conferring municipal privileges appears to have been made by John Earl of Moreton, and Lord of Ireland, in the year 1199, which gave the same liberties and customs as were enjoyed by the citizens of Dublin. These rights and privileges were afterwards secured by a charter of the twentieth year of the reign of Edward I., and confirmed by almost all the sovereigns

down to Queen Elizabeth, who granted, in addition to other privileges, that a sword of state and hat of maintenance should be borne before the mayor within the city and liberties. The charter granted by James I. in 1609 constituted the city a county in itself. James II. granted a new charter, which, however, became void, and that of James I. continued to be the governing charter down to the passing of the Irish Municipal Corporations Act in the year 1841. Under the provisions of this act, the borough of Limerick is divided into eight wards; and the corporation, which is styled the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of Limerick, consists of eight aldermen and thirty-two burgesses. Of the public buildings in this city, one of the most important, as it is the most ancient, is the magnificent cathedral, which was erected on the site of his own palace, by Donald O'Brien, King of Thomond, or North Munster, and by him dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. The founder of this splendid edifice, which is still called St. Mary's, is described by his biographer as being a prince whose mixture of warlike and religious propensities rendered him popular alike with the laity and clergy of the country. A due and grateful remembrance is cherished in our ecclesiastical annals of the great munificence of this prince, on account of the number of religious houses founded by him. Besides several monastic institutions, he founded a nunnery for Canonesses of the Augustine order, in the barony of Islands, and also an establishment, under the name of St. Peter's Cell, in this city, for Black Nuns of the order of St. Augustine.



ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL.

St. Mary's Cathedral is a building of massive character and ample proportions, the nave and choir being about 170 feet in length, by 30

feet in breadth, and the transept about 93 feet long, by 30. The aisles, which are divided from the nave by massive pillars of solid masonry, chamfered on the edges, are, properly speaking, not more than 12 feet wide, and terminated originally at the transept in an altar; of this fact the piscina, which is still to be seen in the north aisle, furnishes sufficient attestation. The bases of the pillars, as well as the capitals from which spring the low pointed arches, are of cut stone. From the massive character of the pillars, which are 36 feet square, and the corresponding arches, the divisional arcades present a heavy, but still not ungraceful, appearance. The external appearance of this ancient pile is grand and imposing, and is rendered strikingly conspicuous by its battlemented walls and magnificent square tower, 120 feet in height, which rises on its western extremity. When I saw it, for the first time, in 1850, the choir, which is about 90 feet by 30, with a fine chancel window, was the only portion of the cathedral appropriated to Divine worship. It then appeared uncommonly beautiful, and the furniture and decoration in perfect harmony with its solemnity and grandeur. In front of the communion-table stood a very rich baptismal font of black marble, with a corresponding cover. Near to it was the bishop's throne, which was of characteristic richness. A very handsome and unique reading-desk was formed by a large golden eagle, that supported on its back the book-rest. The pulpit was a rare and antique curiosity, and the organ splendid; while the arms of the Kings of Munster, emblazoned and ornamented with fine carving, presented a very grand picture, as rich as it was beautiful. The fronts of the galleries were ornamented and embellished with oak panelling, splendidly carved; while on the pews or stalls appropriated to the ecclesiastical dignitaries appeared various figures and devices equally rich, and also executed in the finest carving. Several ancient and rich modern monuments attract the notice of the visitor. Among the ancient specimens is that of the great Earl of Thomond, which is formed within a lofty and capacious arch on the north side of the choir. This grand mural monument is composed of different-coloured marbles, and its three several stages supported and decorated by elegant pillars of the Ionic, Corinthian, and Composite orders. In some of the spacious side chapels, erected from time to time by noble and distinguished families, are to be seen well-designed and beautiful monuments, as, for instance, in the Hartstonge Chapel, on the right of the grand entrance, beyond the south aisle, is a splendid one to Lord Henry Edmund Glantworth, son of the first and father of the second Earl of Limerick. In the chapel on the north side, immediately opposite the Hartstonge Chapel, is a fine modern monument to the late bishop, the Right Rev. Dr. Jebb, who, in a full life-like statue, finely executed in white marble, is represented in a sitting posture. Several mural monuments to members of the Galway family have been placed from time to time in the south transept. During my visit to Limerick in the month of

September, 1860, I looked into the cathedral, and, for the moment, was filled with astonishment, not unmingled with regret, on witnessing the great change which had taken place within it. The whole of the church furniture was removed, several of the modern monuments taken down, and men were engaged in breaking down the masonry with which a vitiated taste had blocked up several of the arches of the nave and aisles. In fact, at this time, the interior presented a chaotic confusion. Upon inquiry, however, what appeared to me so extraordinary was most satisfactorily explained and accounted for. It appears that many of the friends and admirers of the late lamented Augustus Stafford O'Brien, Esq., M.P., who was a descendant of the illustrious founder of the cathedral, determined to erect a tribute to his memory, in the shape of a grand chancel window of stained glass. Agreeably to this resolution, the eminent architect, Mr. Slater, was communicated with, who at once submitted a design for the memorial window, and it was executed by Messrs. Clayton and Bell. Besides the claim which the respected deceased had upon the citizens of Limerick by his birth and lineage, he became an object of sympathy by the noble self-sacrifice he had made in his endeavours to console and support his fellow-man. During the period of the late Russian war, this distinguished gentleman, with the philanthropic spirit of a Howard, undertook the perilous but ennobling mission of visiting the Crimea, and, unappalled by the almost plague-smitten hospital of Scutari, of watching beside the pillow of the wounded and dying soldier. To admit of this window being erected the cathedral had been closed for a considerable length of time, and the performance of Divine service suspended during the interval. The term of its continuance in this state was necessarily prolonged, as in the course of the operations for the insertion of the window it was discovered that, unfortunately, the roof of the venerable edifice was in a very bad state, the timber being tainted with dry rot. The consequence was, that, notwithstanding the oak of which the roof was constructed being in all probability from the same wood that furnished the timber for roofing the Banqueting House at Westminster, also called the Hall of Rufus; and the Chapter House of Canterbury, which have stood the test of so many ages, the absolute necessity for the erection of a new roof became startlingly obvious. Accordingly, gentlemen of weight and influence, with a becoming and praiseworthy alacrity, took the necessary steps for raising funds for so desirable an object, and at the close of the summer of 1860 the entirely new roof was completed. The success which thus attended their laudable efforts doubtless stimulated them to increased action, and hence the general clearing out and restoration of the interior to which I have already alluded. The ceiling of the roof, which was originally of plain mortar, has been superseded by one of timber, and presents a prolonged and magnificent arch in imitation of panelled oak. The grand memorial window, of three lancet-shaped compartments, is exceedingly beautiful, the stained glass being of the

choicest description, and the various figures finely developed. The grand transept windows are of four mullions and five lancet-shaped compartments, and the adjoining side chapel on the north, of three mullions and four similar compartments; while that on the south is also of three mullions, with head-tracery in the perpendicular style. In some of the minor side chapels are fine Gothic windows of two mullions, which are filled up with elegant stained glass. Among the modern monuments which still retained their positions in the most conspicuous parts of the choir were those of Denis Fitzgerald Mahony, alderman, chamberlain, and magistrate of the city of Limerick, and his son, Andrew Watson Mahony, to which I made allusion on a former occasion. The first of these, which records the decease of the worthy alderman, on the 22nd of February, 1840, is very beautiful. Above the nice tablet of fine statuary marble appears a splendid representation of the good Samaritan ministering charity to his distressed brother man. The figures are finely developed in *alto-relievo*, and are of the most perfect chiseling. Over this elegant piece of sculpture stands an exquisitely-wrought emblem of Grief, represented by a finely-formed and graceful female figure leaning on a rich urn. The design of this piece is admirably conceived, and the drapery elegantly executed. About the middle of October, three weeks later, I paid my last visit to this very interesting cathedral, and found, with much pleasure, that its general appearance afforded ample evidence of the laudable efforts that were being made to bring the internal restorations to completion. A series of beautiful niches, three in number, in the pointed Gothic style, appeared in the eastern wall of the choir, immediately under the grand memorial or chancel window. These ornamental adjuncts are enriched with columnar decorations and splendid label-mouldings, and their faces filled up with the finest description of Irish marbles. The rubbish consequent upon the removal of the dense masonry, which had blinded several of the arches, had been cleared away, and the whole interior displayed such a degree of harmony as led to the gratifying conclusion that ere long it will be restored to a state of comparative grandeur not unworthy of its character and its fame. This ancient and venerable fane has stood the test of time for nearly 700 years, and is the self-same structure that was founded by Donald O'Brien, King of Limerick and North Munster, and endowed by his excellent son and successor, Donogh Carbrach O'Brien. It was further improved by Bishop Donat O'Brien, who, by the arrangement and decoration of the interior, may be said to have completed what his noble and illustrious ancestors had commenced. How it escaped the various vicissitudes of war and strife is a matter of marvel, especially so when we recollect the protracted sieges to which the city was subjected by the armies of Cromwell and William III. It is said to have been greatly adorned by Bishop Del Ewe, in the early part of the fourteenth century, and partly re-edified by the citizens in the year 1490. It was much improved by Bishop

Adams in the seventeenth century, and carefully restored after the wars of the same century. While we of the present day refer to these acts of piety and munificence whereby this renowned edifice has been thus long preserved, a grateful posterity will doubtless award their full meed of praise to those who have now so nobly stepped forward to save it from the impending hand of ruin.

We find that a Dominican abbey was founded in this city in the year 1227, by Donogh Carbrach O'Brien, Prince of Thomond, which became a place of great importance, and was the burial-ground of various prelates and other distinguished personages. It was situated at a short distance south and west of King John's Castle, where some trifling portions of the walls are still to be seen; while the cemetery forms the garden of the adjoining nunnery.

St. Peter's Cell, a convent for Nuns of the order of St. Augustine, founded in 1171, by Donald, King of Limerick, was situated in the same neighbourhood, but there are at present no tangible vestiges of it remaining. In this vicinity may be seen portions of the ancient city wall, which show it to have been of strong and dense proportions. In the rear of the Protestant church of St. Munchin's, on the eastern side of Castle Street, are also to be seen portions of the ancient encircling wall, which are of still greater extent. The church of this place is a handsome structure, graced with a lofty square tower, decorated with embattlements and crowning pinnacles; it is said to have been founded by St. Munchin, and was the cathedral of the diocese previous to the building of the grand cathedral of St. Mary's, by King Donald O'Brien. Of the Franciscan monastery founded by William Fion de Burgo there are no remains. Neither are there any discernible vestiges of the monastery and church of the Knights Templars, said to have been founded here. Of the Catholic churches of the city, that of St. John's, being the cathedral of the diocese, must be considered the most important. It is a large and plain cruciform building of long standing, being erected in the year 1753. The altar must be considered its most striking feature, being of an enriched character, with an excellent picture of the Crucifixion, from the pencil of Collopy, a native artist. But whatever the merits of this old church, and however endeared to the inhabitants of this, one of the bishop's parishes, it may be, its lustre is about to be dimmed, and its pretensions humbled, by the grand and truly magnificent cathedral which has been raised in its immediate vicinity. This splendid temple was commenced about three years since under the immediate direction of the venerable and beloved bishop of the Roman Catholic diocese of Limerick, the Right Rev. Dr. Ryan, who contributed on one occasion so large a sum as £1,100 towards its erection. This fine structure, which is called St. John's Cathedral, is of cruciform construction, in the enriched Gothic style of architecture, and consists of a nave and chancel 168 feet in length and 30 feet in breadth, with aisles 22 feet wide, and transepts which measure 114 feet across. On each side of

the high altar are two small chapels, which are divided from each other by a light and elegant characteristic arch. The chancel and transept windows are of five lights each, while circular windows, enriched with delicate tracery, light the four side chapels. The sacristies and the aisles are furnished with windows of two lights each. The external appearance of the building is exceedingly grand, and displays great variety in its striking and agreeable features. The chancel end especially challenges the admiration of the visitor, as it exhibits five distinct gables, namely, that of the lofty nave, which from the ground line to the summit of the cross rises to a height of 90 feet, and the beautiful chapels, two on each side, each having its separate gable, its elegant Rose window, and its crowning cross, and attaining a proportionate height; the whole constituting such a group as the architect and the man of taste can look upon with mingled feelings of pleasure and gratification. A massive weathering buttress rises on each extremity of the western end of the nave, and terminates in an uncommonly rich and beautiful pinnacle. The cathedral is entered in this end by a lofty porch, above which rises a remarkably striking crocketed gable, surmounted by an elegantly-wrought cross. Above and in the rear of this gable appears a tall niche, also surmounted by a crocketed gable, and ending in an ornamental cross; on each side of it is a fine window of one mullion, in the head of which is a handsome cinquefoil ornament. The tower, which rises immediately west of the north transept, and at present 60 feet above the base, will, when finished, attain an altitude of 230 feet, and will be furnished with star-lights, louvred and traceried belfry windows, and a characteristic crocketed spire. The building is constructed of the fine hard stone which is so abundant in this city, and the workmanship reticulated masonry. The site upon which it stands is 11 feet above the base of St. Mary's Cathedral. This grand church, which was designed by Philip C. Hardwicke, Esq., architect, London, and contracted for by Messrs. Wallace and Son, builders, Limerick, cost up to the early part of the summer of 1860, £12,000, and will, in all probability, require as much more to complete it. When I saw it for the last time, in the month of October, 1860, the interior was steadily advancing towards the much-desired completion, the grand altar being nearly finished, and that of the Blessed Virgin, which immediately adjoins it on the south side, in a forward state. These altars are composed of various marbles, and will be, when finished, exceedingly beautiful. The large supporting columns on each side of the grand altar are of the reddish Clare marble, which in some respects resembles the fine Cork specimens so much in use. The four outer columns in front of the altar-table are of rich Languedoc marble, and the two inner ones of the fine green from Galway. Some of the columns of the side altar are from the Clare quarries, and others are of the Griotte marble. This beautiful cathedral, so ornamental to the city, and so creditable to its people, will serve as a suitable monument to the revered and

venerable prelate who has ruled over the diocese for upwards of thirty-five years, and who, by his care and solicitude for the moral and religious culture of those committed to his charge, has been so eminently successful in providing the necessary means for the accomplishment of such important and desirable objects. In proof of this we have only to refer to the convents of the Nuns of the Presentation order, and the ever-devoted Sisters of Mercy; to the schools of the Christian Brothers, and to the asylums for the unfortunate and houseless wanderers whose friendless and unhappy lot renders them in an especial manner objects of man's pity. When we add to these the educational establishments presided over by the nuns of the French convent, and by the Jesuit Fathers, not forgetting the renowned Redemptorist Fathers, who have their headquarters in this city, it will be admitted that very rarely indeed has it fallen to the lot of any dignitary to witness such a combination of happy circumstances as those to which I have here alluded, and to feel the gratifying consciousness that they, in a great measure, owe their existence to his fostering patronage. The Protestant church of St. John's is situated in the immediate vicinity of the grand building which I have been endeavouring to describe, and, like it, is of irregular masonry, and constructed of the same description of stone. It is a very handsome edifice of moderate dimensions, consisting of a nave, chancel, side aisles, and tower, the latter, with its crowning spire, rising immediately south of the western end of the building. It partakes in some degree of the Italian style of architecture, having four slender round-headed windows in each aisle, and an equal number of circular ones in each side of the clerestory. A beautiful wheel window, consisting of nine circular lights and an equal number of sub-lights, appears in the western end of the nave; while three slender windows, with finely-rounded heads, light the chancel, the semi-dome of which is decorated with gold stars upon a blue ground. The Rose window, those of the chancel, and some of the side windows of the aisles, are enriched with stained glass. A splendid organ occupies a gallery in the western end of the nave. In the surrounding cemetery are several handsome tombs, some of which are of considerable antiquity. On the right of the entrance to the tower is a monumental slab inserted in the wall, the inscription on which, recording the decease of Philip Fitz-Maurice, dates so far back as the year 1179. Some portions of the old city wall can be traced from the vicinity of St. Peter's Cell to this place. The Catholic church of St. Mary's parish is situated east of St. Mary's Cathedral, and is a plain cruciform edifice, which in style and appearance may be said to resemble the old parish church of St. John's. The interior is well laid out, and the altar, which is exceedingly neat, enriched with an excellent copy of Michael Angelo's picture of the Crucifixion. The residence of the parish priest, at this time the dean of the diocese, immediately adjoins the church. Park House, the residence of his lordship the Roman Catholic bishop of the diocese, is situated beyond Park Bridge, about a quarter of a mile

from this church. St. Munchin's Catholic church is situated at Thomond Gate, on the north side of the river, and, like the other parochial churches just mentioned, is a large cruciform structure of plain character and long standing. It was built in the year 1744, and was the first Roman Catholic house of worship, as we are informed, publicly erected in Limerick after the Revolution. The pious and venerated parish priest, the Rev. James Moore, and his curates, reside in the immediate vicinity of the church. The Catholic church of St. Michael's, situated near the corn-market, was built in the year 1779, and considerably enlarged in 1805; and, being the largest and most commodious of the old parish churches, can accommodate a numerous congregation.

In that part of the city called Newtown-Pery, is a new and spacious Protestant house of worship, called St. Michael's church, which is graced at its eastern end by a handsome square tower of three stages, at this time ready for the spire. This handsome church is entered in the eastern or principal front of the tower by a fine Gothic door, deeply recessed and richly moulded, with a window of two lights standing above it in the second story. In each of the four sides of the third and final story are two slender louvre windows. Handsome buttresses rise on the angles of the tower, and on the angles and sides of the building, the latter ending in finely-pointed pinnacles, the intermediate spaces being decorated with embrasure battlements.

The church of the Dominican Fathers at Glentworth Street, erected in 1815, is a fine square edifice in the Early Gothic style of architecture, about 90 feet in length, by 60 in breadth. It shows its handsome gabled front to Pery Square, and to the eastern front of St. Michael's church, just mentioned. Above the entrance door, which is in the elliptic Gothic style, is a handsome window of four mullions, and over it a finely-formed niche containing an appropriate statue of the founder of the order; the apex of the gable being surmounted by a characteristic cross. The convent of the prior and brethren of the order immediately adjoins the church. In this vicinity is the Blind Asylum Church, a strong plain structure, which is entered beneath a lofty entablature supported by handsome columns of the Doric order. A rich and very beautiful building has been recently erected in the same vicinity; it is of a church-like character, and shows its elaborate side front to the street or square, at the eastern extremity of which is a grand projecting window, and on the west a neat square turret. This very remarkable and ornamental structure is called the Protestant Hall. South of this locality is the Limerick railway station, a reasonably good building. Among the modern buildings that grace and adorn the south-western part of the city may be mentioned the Model School, erected under the direction of the National Board of Education. It shows a nice stone front, and is a very handsome structure. Nearly opposite to this institution are situated the newly-erected Turkish Baths, which are got up some-

what in the style of those recently erected at Bray, and, with their Oriental decorations, constitute a striking and unique pile.

Advancing by this open and agreeable promenade, the tourist will arrive at the convent of the celebrated Redemptorist Fathers, a new and remarkably fine building of its kind; and immediately north of it, will be called on to notice their new and beautiful church then in course of erection. This grand church—for grand in the truest sense of the term it certainly will be when finished—is 173 feet 6 inches in length to the extremity of the apse, 70 feet across the nave and aisles, and 85 feet from the ground line to the summit of the cross. The aisles are covered with lean-to roofs, and all the timbers of the roof wrought and stained. The nave columns are 19 feet high, and are composed of rich limestone, with carved capitals of Portland stone. The massive piers that support the transept arches are also of limestone finely wrought. The chancel arch is supported by columns of the reddish Clare marble finely polished, with Caen stone bases, bands, and richly-carved capitals, ornamented with angelic figures. On the exterior of the apse is a large niche containing a beautiful cross of red marble, emblematic of the Redemptorist order. The style of this temple, being Continental Gothic, is massive in its proportions; the church will be dedicated to St. Alphonsus. Over the front porch is a five-light window 35 feet in height, and in the gables of the transepts an elegant circular window 10 feet in diameter. The other windows of the church are of semi-character. The entrance porch consists of a coupled doorway, and is decorated on each extremity by a delicately beautiful column, the base and capital of which are of richly-carved Portland stone, and the shaft limestone. The column that divides the coupled door is of red marble, with corresponding base and capital.

This grand church was in a forward state, and the works carried out by William Wallace and Son, the builders engaged on the St. John's Cathedral. These clever and experienced gentlemen are also the builders of the Killenaule Roman Catholic church, a fine structure in the decorated Gothic style, consisting of a nave, chancel, and north and south aisles. It is 119 feet in length, 54 feet across the nave and aisles, and 74 feet from the floor to the top of the cross. The aisles are covered with lean-to roofs, and the west window of five lights, with traceried head. The architect is Mr. McCarthy, whose character as an ecclesiastical designer stands so deservedly high. At some distance from this monastery is the new and beautiful convent of the Sisters of Mercy, where at this time was being erected an elegant chapel, which was also in a forward state. This nice chapel, which is 70 feet in length, by 20 in breadth, is of cruciform character, with a splendid window of two mullions, and elegant head tracery in the end of the nave and each transept. There are three windows on each side of the nave, which are furnished with fine stained glass.

In this neighbourhood are commodious infantry barracks, with a

chapel for the use of the soldiers. The convent and church of the Friars of the order of St. Francis are situated near the entrance to the foot of Wellesley Bridge. The convent is a lofty and commodious house, and the church a large edifice in the Gothic style, the front of which displays a centre and wings. The altar, which is very fine, is enriched with a splendid painting of the Madonna. The church of the Augustinian Friars is situated in George's Street, an enviable locality. It was originally built for a theatre, and was purchased by the community in 1824. It is lighted from the handsome dome, and has a nice altar supported by Corinthian pillars, which is adorned with a picture of the Ascension by the native artist, Collopy. There are some very neat Presbyterian and Wesleyan Methodist places of worship in the city. Among the charitable educational establishments may be mentioned Leamy's Free School, a valuable institution, and a fine large house. Another free school was established here in 1819, and endowed by a bequest of Mrs. Villiers, a benevolent lady. Boys as well as girls participate in the advantages to be derived from this school. The National Board of Education contributes liberally towards the education of the poor children of the city, while the Christian Brothers' schools, and those of the several nunneries, supply the wants of a very large number of the youth of both sexes.

Of the ancient fortresses of the city, the principal and most important remnant is that of King John's Castle, which consists at present of a quadrangular area, surrounded by an uncommonly thick and well-built wall. The entrance in the west front, which faces Castle Street, was by a slender door approached by a flight of steps, above which appear the royal arms of England, of comparatively modern construction. This entrance is flanked on each side by an immensely strong circular tower, surmounted by embrasure battlements. Between these towers and the two others of equally massive character, which rise one on each extremity of this side of the quadrangle, the curtain wall is prepared for defence by strong embrasures. On the north front, which faces the Shannon, and the suburbs on the Clare side, extends a defensive wall of massive proportions, with a characteristic circular tower, corresponding in strength and appearance with those which line the western front, upon the summit of which large guns are mounted. Within the central area, which formed the site of the grand keep, military barracks have been erected capable of accommodating four or five hundred men. Some remains of the celebrated Black Battery are to be seen in the immediate vicinity of the Fever Hospital. Here, during the memorable siege, the women of Limerick, with a perfectly Spartan ardour, threw themselves into the breach, and were mainly instrumental in successfully repelling some of the best troops of William III., and, by their energy and devotion, ultimately won for the city a favourable capitulation. On the Clare side of the river, at the foot of Thomond Gate

Bridge, and at a short distance from St. Munchin's Catholic Church, embedded in the ordinary flagged way, is the celebrated Treaty Stone.

Among the public buildings of the city may be enumerated the Lunatic Asylum, the County Infirmary, the County Jail, and Artillery Barracks, which are situated in the suburbs of the city, near the quarter called Garryowen. Among these immediately within the city, are the Town Hall, the Custom House, the Chamber of Commerce, the Limerick Institute, the County Club, and Barringston's Hospital. The first of these, the town-hall, also called the Commercial Buildings, is situated in Patrick Street, and is a spacious brick edifice with a rusticated granite basement. In the large chamber in the basement story is a public news-room, supported by subscription, and frequented by the merchants and men of business. In a spacious room in the second story are held the meetings of the mayor and council of the corporation. In this fine chamber is a magnificent likeness of Ireland's liberator, the illustrious O'Connell, from the pencil of Haverty. The great tribune is represented in his large cloak and full trimmed hat, the costume in which he was wont to appear at the out-door assemblages of the people. There are other pictures by the same artist in this room.

The Chamber of Commerce, a splendid modern building, is situated in the centre of George's Street, the most fashionable part of the city. It has recently undergone considerable improvements, and is a really fine establishment. The magnificent suite of rooms on the second story are converted to the ordinary newspaper saloons, which are constantly attended by the *élite* of the city, including merchants, bankers, and the gentry of the city in general. Here, by the workings of the electric telegraph, telegrams are almost hourly arriving, whereby the ordinary intelligence, foreign and domestic, anticipates the arrival of the mails by many hours. In other parts of the building, the well-selected library is kept under the care of the secretary, William Carroll, Esq., a most intelligent and gentlemanly man. The Limerick Institute, also situated in George's Street, is likewise a modern building, with a very large and valuable library. It is attended by persons of respectability, and, like the Chamber of Commerce, is amply supplied with newspapers and periodicals. The County Club is situated on the opposite side of this fine street, and is entered beneath a handsome portico, formed by ornamental columns and pilasters. It is principally frequented by the nobility and gentry of the county. The branches of the Bank of Ireland, the Provincial, and National Bank, are situated in this part of the city, and are perfectly in keeping with the highly important interests appertaining to them. There are several good hotels in the city, among the first of which may be mentioned that of Mr. Cruise, one of the finest establishments in the south of Ireland, not even excepting the Imperial at Cork. The Clare hotel, within a couple of doors of

Cruise's house, is a very nice and well-conducted establishment, where the attendance is prompt and the charges are moderate.

Among the ornaments of the city, the Rice Testimonial at Pery Square holds a high place, and cannot fail to arrest the attention of the visitor. It is a light and graceful column, surmounted by a full-length figure intended to represent Lord Monteagle, who, as Thomas Spring Rice, for many years represented the city in parliament. A very remarkable and interesting feature has recently been added to the city, which is the beautiful statue of Ireland's liberator, the illustrious and never-to-be-forgotten Daniel O'Connell, whose great talents and unexampled sacrifices entitle him to the everlasting gratitude and affection of his country. This magnificent testimonial of reverence and love is as honourable to the citizens of Limerick as it is to him whose fame it is intended to perpetuate; and there can scarcely be a doubt that if the wishes of the lamented deceased could have been ascertained during life, there is no place in Ireland he would have more gladly selected as a site for his statue than the city whose strenuous and heroic efforts to sustain the honour and independence of Ireland in her hour of peril so frequently formed the theme of his most eloquent eulogy. This fine specimen of artistic excellence and national pride is situated in one of the most favourable and public parts of the city—the splendid crescent formed at the upper end of George's Street. Another memorial of native worth and gallantry is the beautiful monument erected to Viscount Fitzgibbon, the only son and heir of the Earl of Clare, who fell at the memorable charge of Balaklava, and whose body was never found. This elegant statue, which stands on an ornamental pedestal within a square railed-in area, part of the esplanade of Wellesley Bridge, is a truly beautiful figure, and represents the youthful hero as in the act of drawing his sword. Nothing can exceed the exquisite proportions and graceful attitude of the noble soldier, whose dress, being the uniform of his regiment—the 8th Irish Hussars—with the braiding and the fly-jacket, is ingeniously and truthfully depicted. Characteristic devices, and appropriate inscriptional allusions to the sanguinary fields of Balaklava and Inkermann, appear on the front and sides of the pedestal. This is a really interesting monument, and cannot fail to awaken feelings of sympathy in the mind of the beholder for the relatives and friends of him who, so early in life, fell a victim to the ruthless hand of war, in the discharge of his duty and the service of his country.

It has been stated that the citizens of Limerick are about to add another ornament to their beautiful city, and an additional wreath to their civic crown, by the erection of a statue to that noble Irishman and gallant soldier, the renowned and patriotic General Sarsfield, the gleaming lustre of whose sword, wielded in defence of their city and their natural rights, justly entitles him to a place beside the great Daniel O'Connell, whose matchless eloquence and indomitable energy

were instrumental in accomplishing what the sword of the warrior had failed to achieve, namely, the religious and civil emancipation of the Roman Catholics, not only of Ireland, but of the British Empire. Although the ashes of this distinguished Irishman repose in another land, it cannot but prove gratifying to the feelings of those who, by the historical records of the country, have been rendered familiar with his patriotism and his valour, to know that a memorial worthy of his character and his fame will, ere long, be erected in the city which formed the theatre and, we may add, the closing scene of his glorious but unsuccessful efforts in favour of his country's independence. One of the most regular buildings in the city is the Exchange, which immediately adjoins St. Mary's Abbey in this quarter of the city. The front is of hewn stone, and is ornamented with a range of Tuscan columns, seven in number, connected by a handsome balustrade. The County Court House, which is situated at Merchants' Quay, may be called a good building. It is of quadrangular form, and constructed of cut stone, with an ornamental portico supported by handsome columns, and surrounded by a nice iron balustrade. The City Court House, which is situated in the same vicinity, is a much smaller and plainer structure. Markets for the sale of hay and straw, as well as for corn, are held on Wednesday and Saturday; while a market for butter is open daily. There are two markets for the sale of potatoes, one in the English town, and the other in the Irish town; and also two markets for the sale of butchers' meat. There are four principal annual fairs, besides the newly established Munster fair, which has realised all the anticipations of its projectors.

Among the most important and interesting objects to be seen in this renowned city, are its fine quays and magnificent bridges. The Wellesley Bridge, built under an Act of Parliament, and finished in 1831, and so called in compliment to the Marquis of Wellesley, then Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, is a splendid structure. The cost of its erection was £142,000, and the toll for foot passengers one halfpenny each. Baal's Bridge, rebuilt by the corporation in 1842, is an excellent specimen of the builder's art; while the Thomond Gate Bridge, a very strong and massive building, was erected by the same body in 1843. The Shannon, as it flows beneath the last-named structure and Wellesley Bridge, divides the counties of Limerick and Clare. The Matthew Bridge, a remarkably strong and commodious fabric, was also erected by the corporation, in the year 1844. Large floating docks have been constructed within the last dozen years, by the Harbour Commissioners, who borrowed a sum of £50,000 from the Board of Works for their erection. The finest quarries are within a few yards of where these works were being carried on; in fact, the city may be said to be built upon a rock, which is easily quarried, and yields a stone of a dark grey colour. The bridges and quays are built of large substantial blocks of this description. The large steam mills of Messrs. Russell and Co. are situated near the

site of the new docks, and, from their great extent and altitude, cannot fail to arrest the notice of the visitor. These gentlemen, who are said to be some of the largest millowners in Great Britain or Ireland, have extensive mills on many of the neighbouring rivers, and branches of their wholesale flour establishments in several of the adjoining towns. The same enterprising company has, within the last twelve or thirteen years, erected a factory for the manufacture of flax, on the Clare side of the river. A distillery is worked on the same side of the river by Stein and Co., and an extensive brewery on the southern or Garryowen side.

The lover of the picturesque and beautiful should not leave Limerick without paying a visit to Castle-Connel, which is but six miles from the city, and to which the railway trains pass several times in the day. It is said to have derived its name from an ancient fortress, originally a seat of the O'Briens, Kings of Thomond, and in which a grandson of Brian Boru is said to have been murdered by the reigning prince. Proceeding to this interesting place, I noticed, in the southern suburbs of the city, the new and extensive cemetery recently laid out in that locality, in which, even thus early, several handsome tombs and monuments have been raised.

Passing from the railway station to the village of Castle-Connel, the tourist becomes struck by the appearance of the ruined stronghold, its ivy-clad side wall, and the lofty arch at its eastern extremity, presenting features of a truly imposing character. This formidable fortress was based on the summit of an elevated rocky eminence, which, to a certain extent, may be said to resemble the Rock of Cashel, but is by no means so high nor of such large dimensions. The connecting wall, that extended from the north side of the tower to the portions which are still standing on the north and east points of the rocky elevation, has fallen, and dense masses of the closely-cemented masonry are to be seen lying within the still surrounding walls, and at the base of the steep acclivity. One gigantic fragment in its fall bounded across the broad roadway which sweeps round the base of the hill, and, notwithstanding its having fallen from such a height, still remains a compact mass of some dozen feet square. Within the central area, which is still enclosed by the surrounding walls, is a fine velvet grass-plot of oval form, upon the margin of which, at certain distances, grow clumps of handsome evergreens. This and the adjoining parishes were the first places in the county of Limerick of which the English obtained possession, at which time, as we are informed, this fortress was deemed of considerable importance. In the year 1199 King John is said to have granted five knights' fees to William de Burgh, in which was included this parish, with a stipulation that he should maintain a castle thereon. In 1578, as we are informed, Queen Elizabeth created William de Burgh Baron of Castle-Connel. In the war of 1641, Lord Castle-Connel forfeited his title and estate, which were restored on the accession of James II. The title became extinct in the year

1691, but the estate continues in the De Burgh family. The castle was garrisoned by General Ireton in 1651, while on his march to besiege Limerick. It was also strongly garrisoned by the troops of James II. in 1690. After its final surrender it was blown up by order of General De Ginkell. The Protestant church of this place, standing as it does on a richly-planted hill, is a pretty and interesting object. It consists of a nave and north transept, with a low square embattled tower, from which springs a strong, and, for the size of the church, a massive spire. The door is in the western end of the nave beneath a Norman arch, surmounted by a deep label-moulding. The chancel window of five lights occupies nearly the entire of the eastern gable, and presents a rich appearance. There are several beautiful monuments in this church, including one to the youthful Viscount Fitzgibbon, who fell at the dreadful charge of Balaklava; and also one to the Earl, and another to the Countess, of Clare, both exceedingly rich. That to Lord Massy, likewise, arrests the attention of the visitor, it being well designed and chastely beautiful. In that part of the cemetery east of the church are the remains of a small ancient church, parts of the east and south walls of which only remain. The Catholic church, an edifice of long standing and plain character, consisting of a nave and south aisle, is nicely situated near the avenue that leads to the celebrated falls. It was at this time about to be superseded by a new and extensive structure more in accordance with the spirit of the age. This new church, situated in the centre of the village, is of cruciform shape, 105 feet in length, 85 across the transept, and 30 across the nave and aisles. The material used in its construction is a rich bluish limestone, that contrasts finely with the nice granite of which the quoins, door-jambs, window-edgings, and other ornamental parts of the building are composed. The railway at this time extended from Castle-Connel to Birdhill, which is only two miles from Killaloe, to which, should the tourist be desirous of seeing this portion of the Upper Shannon to advantage, it will be his interest to proceed. Availing himself of the car which is in attendance on the arrival of each train, a convenient opportunity is afforded him of viewing the magnificent scenery, as well as the ancient ruins of this renowned and truly interesting place, which so early as the year 639 was constituted the head of a diocese. The mountain scenery in the neighbourhood of Killaloe is exceedingly grand, the chain on the Clare side of the Shannon displaying, as it sweeps from north to south, features of great sublimity; while that on the Limerick side, extending from north to east, and terminating at the eastern extremity of the lofty Keeper Mountain, at the end of which are the bounds of the counties of Limerick and Tipperary, exhibits traits of equal magnificence and bold grandeur. The appearance of the Shannon at this place is picturesque and beautiful in an eminent degree, its course being interrupted by a ridge of rocks, over which the water rushes with a tumultuous force, accompanied by an astounding and reverberating noise.

The town of Killaloe, which is finely situated upon an elevation on the western bank of the Shannon, is a parish in the barony of Tulla, and county of Clare, about twenty miles from Ennis, and eighty-seven from Dublin. It is a place of great antiquity, which at an early period was called Laonia, and is said to have derived its present name—supposed to be a corruption of Kill-da-Lua—from the foundation of an abbey in the ninth century by St. Lua, or Molua, son of a native prince or chieftain. Turlogh O'Brien, as we are informed, erected a bridge over the Shannon at this place in the year 1054. A castle, it appears, had also been built here, as we find it stated that Hugh O'Connor destroyed the castle and burned the town in 1061. In the year 1177, Raymond le Gros, after his successful entry into Limerick, came to this town, where he received hostages from Roderic O'Connor, King of Connaught, and O'Brien, Prince of Thomond, who took the oath of fealty to the King of England. In 1681, the renowned Sarsfield posted a strong party at this place to defend the passage of the river; but these troops having abandoned their post, the English forces advanced by this route into the western province. In 1691, the same intrepid general, at the head of a chosen body of troops, consisting of cavalry, crossed the river and routed a convoy in charge of a large quantity of ammunition on its way to King William III., then at Limerick, to whom the loss of the ammunition, which was totally destroyed, was a considerable disappointment.

The ancient cathedral of this place, at present the Protestant church of the parish, is a large cruciform building, about 200 feet in length, with a square central tower, and a fine chancel window. Its general character is that of the Norman style; its western front, in which is the principal entrance, presents an imposing and highly interesting appearance. Immediately adjoining it is a very remarkable structure, called the Oratory of St. Molua, considered one of the most ancient ecclesiastical buildings in Ireland. It was roofed with stone, and is supposed to have been erected in the seventh century. The Catholic church, a commodious cruciform structure, is admirably situated on an elevation in the highest part of the town. Although its style is comparatively plain, its lofty proportions and dignified simplicity invest it with traits of a more than ordinary interest. The interior, with its fine panelled ceilings in imitation of polished oak, has an imposing and peculiarly pleasing appearance. The windows are of large size, and perfectly in keeping with the style and character of the church. The surrounding spacious area is nicely bounded, and entered by neat characteristic gates; the whole speaking largely for the refined ideas of the dignified parish priest, under whose direction it has attained its present enviable state. On the Tipperary side of the river, the Catholic church of Templekelly, a comparatively modern edifice of cruciform character, appears to great advantage. In style and appearance it resembles the fine church of Killaloe, just mentioned, except that it is not quite so large. About a furlong from this place are the remains

of an ancient church, which are situated in the old churchyard, still a popular burial-ground. At a short distance south of the town of Killaloe, and on the western bank of the Shannon, is the palace of the Protestant bishop of the diocese, a fine mansion of modern appearance, favourably situated in a handsome and well-kept demesne. There are several other beautiful seats in this vicinity, from which excellent views of Lough Derg, and the interesting scenery along its banks, can be obtained.

The Shannon, after passing through this lake about a mile from the town, flows in a compact volume beneath the capacious bridge of nineteen arches, and thence, bounding with tumultuous force over an obstructing ledge of rocks, rushes onwards to Castle-Connel, where it has again to encounter various interruptions; and in its disturbed and noisy career, as it approaches Doonass, produces a variety of impetuous cascades, that in an especial degree excite the interest of the beholder. From the beautiful seat of Lord Massy, on the Limerick side of the river, to which there is a convenient and delightful walk along its border, can be seen the series of picturesque waterfalls produced by the fretted stream as it pursues its headlong course over the several obstructions. These exciting features can be seen, if possible, to still greater advantage from the extensive and grand demesne of Sir Hugh Dillon Massey, Bart., and his magnificent mansion called Doonass House, as the principal falls are on the Clare side of the river. Besides these grand seats there are several others of great magnificence and beauty in this enviable locality; among the principal of which may be mentioned Mount Shannon, the elegant seat of the Earl of Clare, whose noble mansion is considered one of the most splendid in this part of Ireland. The fine seat of Sir Richard de Burgo, in the immediate vicinity of Castle-Connel, commands the visitor's attention; as do those of Belmont, the charming residence of Jasper White, Esq., and the Grange, that of Edward Gonne Bell, Esq., R.M. Captain Bell, the son of the last-named gentleman, who so bravely distinguished himself in the recent campaign in India, occupies a handsome villa in this charming neighbourhood. Regattas frequently take place on the Shannon, in the vicinity of Castle-Connel; and on the day upon which I paid my visit to this interesting place such an event came off. The assemblage was large, and the attendance on the part of the aristocracy numerous and brilliant. The ladies were eminently beautiful, and fully realised all I had previously heard of the celebrated "Limerick Lasses." The immediate scene of action on this interesting occasion was that point on the river about half a mile from the village of Castle-Connel, called the "World's End," where, on the banks of the river, tents were raised, and crowds of persons from the counties of Limerick and Clare were congregated; the largest number, however, appeared on the Limerick side. The principal race was between two four-oared boats, one of them being manned by five gentlemen of the county of Limerick, and

the other by an equal number from the county of Clare, four of them rowers, and the fifth the steersman. Three of those in the Limerick boat were brothers, the Messrs. MacDonnell, and two of those in the Clare boat were brothers, the Messrs. Loyd. The distance was nearly three miles up the Shannon, in the direction of O'Brien's Bridge, and back. The judges were in Mr. Jasper White's splendid yacht, and a numerous band, that of the Limerick Militia, in a barge that was moored in the same vicinity. The boats started by the discharge of a small piece of ordnance, simultaneous with which the band struck up the favourite and popular air of "Garryowen," and the excitement of the multitude was considerable. After a very closely contested race, which, considering the distance, came off in an incredibly short space of time, the Clare boat came in the winner by a few yards, to the great joy, as may well be supposed, of the dwellers on the western side of the river. A couple of other well-contested races came off in the course of the day; the sport terminating with a remarkably exciting race between three light boats of a peculiar construction, well suited to the arduous task assigned them, that of running down the river and over some of the numerous falls, and returning by the same course; a work of extreme difficulty. Each boat was worked by two men, who in descending the river used light oars; and although it required no very great efforts to facilitate their progress down the stream, much care and adroitness became necessary to prevent them from being overturned as they passed over the falls. But it was when they had to return against the force of the river and the precipitous falls that the nerve and strength of the boatmen were taxed to the utmost; and it required all the power they possessed, accompanied by ample experience, to propel their skiffs against the impetuous rush of the crested flood, as it bounded over the ledges of the obstructing rocks. It would be almost impossible, under any circumstances, to witness a finer manifestation of agility united with physical strength than that which was exhibited on this occasion. In their upward progress the almost herculean boatmen were obliged to use poles to propel their tiny craft, and great indeed were the efforts they displayed in the use of them. In mounting over the final and most difficult fall, it was really curious to witness the address made use of by them to bring their boats over the apparently impassable barrier, and when they had succeeded in doing so, the shouts of approbation that burst from those who fully understood the difficulty of the task they had accomplished, were such as none but Irishmen know how to give. One boat only, as a matter of course, could win the prize; but the hardy fellows in each of the others entitled themselves, by their powerful exertions, to the praise and admiration of the thousands there assembled. The interest was enhanced by the inconsiderable distance which during the whole race appeared between the first, second, and third boat.

One of the greatest treats that can be enjoyed by the tourist who

visits Limerick is the trip down the Shannon by the steamer that plies daily to Tarbert and Kilrush, whereby he will be enabled to view the noble scenery, and trace the windings, of what may be called the Thames of Ireland. The first object of interest which presents itself after losing sight of the city and the new docks, is Tervoe, the extensive and beautiful seat of the Right Hon. William Monsell, M.P. The mansion, which is called Tervoe House, is a fine courtly building, surrounded by ample lawns and rich plantations, whose combined advantages cannot fail to impress the beholder with the most favourable notions respecting them. The Clare mountains present a very striking and grand outline, as viewed from that part of the river that flows in front of this magnificent place. At a short distance from Tervoe stands an old and picturesque ruin called Carrigahona, or the "Castle on the Rock." Farther down, and on the opposite side of the river, can be obtained an excellent view of Cratloe Wood, in times long gone by remarkable for the superiority of its fine oak timber. In its vicinity are the remains of an old castle of the ordinary class. Passing from this point, the river winds considerably, and soon after Bunratty Castle displays itself, and is a ruin of a comparatively fresh appearance. Still down the river on the Limerick side, appears within a handsome demesne a fine house of modern aspect. Adjoining this demesne, which is designated Shannon Grove, is another pretty seat, called Castletown House. In this neighbourhood the tourist is called on to notice a very striking and interesting object, a private Lunatic Asylum. In this vicinity also appears an old ruin called Begh Castle, near to which is an ancient burial-ground. There is likewise a coast-guard station at this place, after passing which the steamer arrives at the mouth of the Fergus, one of the principal tributaries of the Shannon, where the latter river assumes a wide and majestic appearance. On the Limerick side, near this point, the river Deel, which flows downward from Askeaton, where it turns extensive mills, loses itself in the Shannon. A very remarkable object displays itself in this part of the Shannon, which is an unique and handsome lighthouse, designed by Patrick Lynch, Esq., solicitor, a native of Limerick. The under portion forms a very neat dwelling, while from the roof rises a light and pretty tower, surmounted by the lantern. This peculiarly striking and useful structure reflects much credit on its designer, whose services in this respect have been duly appreciated by the merchants and shipowners of Limerick.

Soon after passing this nice beacon, the tourist approaches the island of Foynes, having previously noticed some smaller islands and a battery in this part of the river. Immediately west of Foynes Island appears the entrance to the basin, which is capable of accommodating the largest class of ordinary ocean steamers, its depth, even at low water, being over 50 feet; while it is sheltered on the east by a handsome elevation of a rocky character. The navigation of the Shannon is perfectly open and free from the mouth of the river to this

harbour. The public-spirited citizens having secured railway accommodation to this very important and interesting point, calculate that ere long there will be a Transatlantic packet station established here, and hope the government will favour their views in this respect. At present the step in advance made in favour of Galway by the enterprise of John Orrell Lever, Esq., M.P., and the indomitable perseverance of the good Father Daly, is calculated to retard their expectations in this matter. But even though the Lever project has met with the support it so well deserves from the government, and to which, according to the almost universally expressed opinion of the people of this country, it is so justly entitled, many years cannot elapse before the capabilities of the Shannon and the harbour of Foynes will command the attention of the executive. It is but natural to suppose that, from the paramount advantages it possesses, both as regards water and steam, its claims must be recognised by those in authority, and then results favourable to the development of the district and the enterprise of the mercantile body of Limerick will follow as a matter of course.

From the neighbourhood of Foynes the village of Kildysart appears on the Clare side of the river, and presents a fresh and cheerful aspect. It is situated on the property of John Bindon Scott, D.L., whose residence is situated at a short distance from it. Mount Trenchard, the beautiful seat of Lord Monteagle, appears west of the contemplated packet station. This nobleman takes a great interest in everything appertaining to the welfare of Limerick, with which he has been for many years closely and publicly connected. A very neat small church is situated on a part of his lordship's demesne. At a short distance from Foynes, on the same side of the river, a small plain village, called Loughill, attracts the notice of the passenger. Many salmon-weirs appear along the banks of the Shannon, and large quantities of this and other valued fish, including gillaroos and pike, are taken in this noble river.

Approaching Tarbert, the nice village of Glin presents itself on the Limerick side of the river. Near this place the excursionist obtains an excellent view of the fine seat of the Knight of Glin, which is a very delightful residence. On the east of the beautiful mansion, which is an extensive and richly ornamented modern building, extends a range of nice offices, decorated with embattled turrets, the light and graceful appearance of which gives a pleasing variety to the grand and imposing pile. In about three hours after leaving Limerick the steamer arrives at Tarbert, where there is a capacious landing pier, with a lighthouse and battery. The tourist must naturally feel delighted with his trip on this greatest of island rivers, and will doubtless occasionally dwell in deep meditation on its length and capacity, flowing as it does through a tract of 200 miles from where it takes its rise in Lough Clean, until it empties itself by its wide mouth into the vast Atlantic. In its devious course it passes through

or touches ten different counties; while it receives, as it sweeps along, the tributary waters of not less than thirty rivers.

Before taking leave, for the present, of this magnificent river, it may not be deemed out of place to notice one or two of the towns that are situated in the vicinity of its lordly bank on the Limerick side, and in the immediate neighbourhood of a couple of its tributary streams. I shall commence with Adare—the name of which in the Irish language signifies "the ford of the oaks,"—as it abounds in objects alike interesting to those who delight in examining architectural ruins, whether of an ecclesiastical or feudal character, and tracing the chequered events which grew out of the English invasion, of which the history of this part of the country furnishes an adequate proportion. This fresh and handsome village, which some years ago presented the appearance of an old and plain place, has within a comparatively recent period undergone considerable improvement, several of the old houses being removed and replaced by others under the immediate direction of the Earl of Dunraven, the owner of the property on which it stands, who also caused a hotel, post-office, fever hospital, and dispensary to be erected. On the arrival of the English under Henry II., it was considered a place of some importance, and was rendered remarkable by its castle and church, which are now within the demesne of the Earl of Dunraven. The first object of importance that attracts the notice of the visitor as he enters the village, at present, is the new and beautiful Roman Catholic church recently built by the Countess of Dunraven, on the site of the former one which occupied the nave and part of the choir of the church of the monastery founded in the year 1279, by John, first Earl of Kildare, which he amply endowed, and dedicated to the Holy Trinity. This establishment, which was subsequently called the Black Abbey, and is situated in the present town, continued to flourish till the dissolution of the monasteries. The tower, to which is attached the Catholic church just mentioned, is of massive character, and with its battlements is in a comparatively perfect state. The new church consists of a nave, chancel, transept, and Lady Chapel, with a fine triplet window furnished with stained glass, above the altar, and over it a small oriel light, also of stained glass. In the western end of the nave is a large Gothic window of four lights. The transept end is embellished with a fine representation of our Blessed Lord's Crucifixion splendidly carved, with a statue of his Virgin Mother at the foot of the cross on one side, and of his beloved disciple, St. John, upon the other. A very beautiful statue of the Holy Virgin, similar to that presented by the late Countess of Shrewsbury to the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Wexford, stands in front of the pier which supports the arch that divides her chapel from the sanctuary. The pulpit, which is immediately outside of the railing of the sanctuary on the south side of the nave, is of fine variegated marble; and the columns on which rests the beautiful baptismal font, beneath the

grand west window, are of the same rich material, from the quarries of Cork or Clare. The Nunnery of the Sisters of Mercy, immediately adjoining the church, together with its schools, occupy portions of the old abbey, which have been put into excellent repair by the Countess of Dunraven. Her ladyship has also erected a magnificent drinking-fountain near the entrance to the church, and in front of the convent. This monument of generosity and modern enlightenment discharges the crystal fluid by two powerful jets into a capacious basin, which, like the fine crowning cross, and its tall supporting shaft, is of pure granite; its height from the base to the summit of the cross is about 35 feet, and the date of its erection 1855.

The Protestant church of the village consists of the nave and part of the choir of the Franciscan Abbey, which was founded on the bank of the river, by Thomas, seventh Earl of Kildare, who married Joan, daughter of the Earl of Desmond. The remains of this ancient monastery, which are near the present bridge, consist of the lofty and slender square tower and the portions just mentioned, which were fitted up as the parochial church; and also the cloisters on the north side, which are in a comparatively perfect state, having been restored by the Earl of Dunraven. The cloisters, which are very fine, consist of three beautiful arches on each side of the quadrangle, each containing three compartments. West of the cloisters is the grand family mausoleum erected by the noble proprietor, over the doorway of which are emblazoned shields, upon which appear alternately the arms of Kildare and Desmond. Another abbey, said to have been dedicated to St. Augustine, was founded here, the interesting remains of which are situated within the grand demesne of the Earl of Dunraven. These beautiful ruins are very extensive, and consist of the nave, choir, and south transept of the church, with a graceful and slender square tower which rises at the intersection of the nave and choir. Within the choir are several interesting objects, consisting of sedilia, piscina, and ornamented niches of elegant design. On the east side of the transept, in which also are beautiful niches and fonts, are two nice chapels or oratories, and on the west side one of similar character. The cloisters, when we consider their exposure to the weather, owing to the roof having fallen, are in a very perfect state, and are exceedingly beautiful; while in the centre of the area enclosed by them is a venerable and spreading yew-tree, which, although not so large, reminds the visitor of the old and majestic yew that attracts the tourist's attention at Muckross Abbey. The ruins of the ancient castle, with its extensive court and massive appendages, are well worthy of a visit. This castle, finely situated on the eastern bank of the river Mague, was originally erected by the O'Donovans, chieftains of the district. It was rebuilt by the second Earl of Kildare in the year 1326, and, as we are informed, was enlarged and fortified by several of his successors. The eastern face of this great building is still entire and in excellent preservation; but that of the west, which

is of semicircular form, has partly fallen; while the north and south sides, though still standing, are showing unmistakable evidence of the deteriorating influence of the corroding hand of time. Like the fortunes of its lordly owners, this castle experienced various vicissitudes, and was the theatre of many stirring events; but in the year 1657 it was dismantled by the orders of Oliver Cromwell. About a dozen perches from the eastern end of this grand ruin are the remains of an ecclesiastical structure, situated in the centre of an ancient cemetery. It is of comparatively limited extent, and consists of a nave and choir, the walls of which are covered with ivy. The mansion of the Earl of Dunraven, called Adare Castle, is a truly magnificent building. It was erected at three different periods, and is in the enriched style of what is termed the later English. Each of the two subsequent additions was more highly wrought and elaborate than the original portion, the latter especially, which forms the south wing, being of an exceedingly rich and florid character, and abounding in fanciful decorations, consisting of statues, urns, and ornamental niches. Taking it all together, it may be with justice ranked among some of the finest baronial residences in Ireland. The demesne is of considerable extent, and the timber some of the largest which I have seen. On a part of the lawn, at a short distance from the mansion, is pointed out the venerable ash-tree beneath which the family papers and other articles deemed of great value and importance were hastily concealed by the ancestor of the noble proprietor, on the approach of a body of depredators during the Revolutionary period of 1688. It appears that previous to the year 1310 the town had been incorporated, as in that year a grant of customs was made by Edward II. to the bailiffs and the good men of Adare. Some time prior to the year 1376 the town was burned and destroyed by a party of the native Irish. The Mague has been rendered navigable by means of a canal up to the town, where a quay was some years since erected by the Earl of Dunraven. There are eight fairs held here in the year, which are very well attended. Availing himself of the facility afforded by the Foynes railway, the tourist may with perfect convenience pay a visit to the neighbouring town of Askeaton, pleasantly situated on the river Deel. It was formerly a parliamentary borough, and is a parish in the barony of Lower Connello east, about sixteen miles from Limerick, and 113 from Dublin. The river, which discharges itself into the Shannon about two miles below the town, is crossed by an ancient bridge of five arches, that connects the portions which lie on each of its banks. It is capable of admitting vessels of about sixty tons burthen to the spacious quays, that have been erected in the vicinity of the bridge to which the tide flows. The market is on Tuesday; and fairs are held on the 30th of July and 9th of October. There are large flour-mills in the neighbourhood of the town, one of them being near the castle. This town had a charter of incorporation conferred upon it in 1613, the eleventh year of the reign of James I.,

and returned two members to the Irish parliament until the Union, when it was disfranchised; and the sum of £15,000, awarded as compensation, was divided between the Earl of Carrick, the trustees of the will of Lord Massy, Sir Vere Hunt, Bart., and Sir Joseph Hoare, Bart. This town owes much of its early importance to the great family of the Fitz-Geralds, who, as we are informed, erected a magnificent castle here. In the year 1420, James, seventh Earl of Desmond, founded a monastery for Friars of the Franciscan order at this place, which establishment was taken possession of by brethren of the Strict Observance in 1490, and was considered worthy of being ranked among the finest ecclesiastical structures in Ireland. In 1558, as we are told, James Fitz-Gerald, fifteenth Earl of Desmond, and Lord High Treasurer of Ireland, died here, and was buried in the church of the monastery. He, it appears, was succeeded by his son, Garret, called the "Great Earl," who forfeited his life and his vast estates, estimated at 570,000 acres, by his participation in the struggle made against England during the reign of Elizabeth. We find that this great nobleman, who had been a prisoner in the custody of the Mayor of Dublin, in the year 1573, made his escape and took refuge in the Castle of Askeaton, which, in 1579, he garrisoned against the queen's forces under the command of Sir Nicholas Malby. In the April following, however, it was attacked by Sir George Carew; but the garrison retired during the night, leaving a train of gunpowder, which blew up part of the fortress; and the English took possession of the castle, which was the last stronghold that sustained the falling cause of this powerful earl. The grand ruins of the castle and the ecclesiastical buildings bear ample attestation of the former importance of this place, and even in their present state are objects of deep interest to those who employ themselves in antiquarian research. The remains of the once stately castle, which are prominently situated on a limestone rock that projects boldly into the river Deel, appear strikingly conspicuous, and arrest the immediate attention of the visitor. Near the castle ruins is that of the banqueting-house, a spacious and elegant building, which, with the exception of the roof, is still in good preservation. Many of the details of this interesting ruin are worthy of particular notice, and especially the windows of the grand hall, which are considered admirable specimens of exquisite taste and beautiful design.

The venerable ruins of the Franciscan abbey are situated on the eastern bank of the river, at a short distance to the north. This renowned monastery was constructed entirely of the fine grey marble which so plentifully abounds in this vicinity. The cloisters, which are nearly entire, furnish evidence of the rare qualifications and artistic skill of their designer, and of the superior excellence of the workmen who were engaged in carrying out his details. On each side of the enclosed quadrangular area are twelve lofty pointed arches, supported by cylindrical columns, with highly-enriched moulded capitals.

In the centre of the enclosed area grows an ancient hawthorn of stately appearance. The conventual church, which, with the exception of the roof, is partly standing, shows, in the lofty window of the eastern gable, some interesting details in the enriched English style. East of the remains of the grand castle are the ruins of the church of the Commandery of the Knights Templars, founded in the year 1298. A portion of this church was appropriated to Protestant worship a long time ago, and used as the parochial church of the place. On the south side, the transept, now in total ruin, is separated from the nave by two lofty arches, which have been closed up; and near the east end are the remains of the ancient tower, which is square at the base, and octangular above. A commodious Catholic church, of comparatively recent erection, is situated on an elevated site, and can be seen, an interesting object, from the railway carriages as they pass along the line in this neighbourhood.

An excellent view of the picturesque waterfall and salmon-leap formed on the river Deel, in its progress to the Shannon, can be obtained in the vicinity of the town. I shall close my notice of this most interesting county by shortly referring to some prominent features which fell under my notice while travelling through that part of it called the Golden Vein; to which, that I might have the pleasure of seeing the grand ecclesiastical ruins of Kilmallock, I paid a hasty visit. It requires but a very short acquaintance with the town of Kilmallock to perceive that in former times it was a place of the greatest importance. Indeed, a mere cursory examination of its ancient castellated buildings and defensive walls is sufficient to impress the visitor with this conviction. In addition to these, the richness and fertility of the surrounding lands afford unmistakable evidence of its manifest superiority, and satisfactorily account for the reason why it was chosen as the centre and nucleus of feudal authority and ecclesiastical dignity. Such, in fact, is the superior character and quality of its soil, that it has given rise to the bold assertion, that finer land than that which is to be seen here "bird never flew over." This ancient town, which is a parish and liberty, about sixteen miles from Limerick, and 110 from Dublin, is said to have derived its name from an abbey founded here for Canons Regular by St. Mocheallog, in the beginning of the seventh century. It appears to have been inhabited, at a very early period, by several of the principal nobility and gentry of the district, and to have exercised corporate rights, either by prescription or by charter granted at an early date, as we find its privileges as a borough are recited in a charter conferred upon the town by Edward III., by which that monarch granted to the provost and commonalty certain tolls and customs towards the repairs of its fortifications. Part of the ancient town wall, which was of great strength, is still remaining, and also one of its gateway towers, of which there were originally four. From this tower, which is situated on the south-western side, the town wall may be seen

extending for nearly a quarter of a mile. In the centre of the town is the grand castle, of ample proportions and quadrangular form, in the basement story of which was a capacious archway, now closed up, through which the ordinary high-road formerly passed, but which at present runs beside it. This massive structure is entered in its principal front, which faces the street, by a double door; while in each of the four stories are, what, for a building of this character, may be called large windows, that, like the arched doorway, are in the Gothic style. In the other sides of the building are slit lights of various sizes.

When the town was in a state of defence this important fortalice was used as an armoury and citadel. In the vicinity of the strong keep, which is still in a state of good preservation, and in which parochial schools for the education of male and female children, under the direction of the Protestant rector, are kept, are the remains of some ancient buildings, which, from their style of architecture, appear to have been of a superior description. The Gothic doors, with their rich stone jambs, and the square windows, with their architraves and mullions of the same material, together with their admirable chiseling and fine workmanship, declare them to have been the abode of persons of high character and position. This town, which is favourably situated on the western bank of a stream or small river called the Lubach, consists of one principal street, with a couple of others branching from it, in which are many good modern houses and a few large shops. There is an excellent hotel in the town, kept by an active and enterprising man of business, Mr. O'Sullivan, with an attached posting establishment, who unites with the well-served hostelry the trade of a wine and spirit merchant, as well as that of a general grocer; it would be difficult to find, in any town of its class, a finer establishment than this. Such was the importance attached to this town, that we find Edward IV., in order to compensate the inhabitants for the losses they had sustained in defending it against the assaults of his enemies, conferred upon it a new charter of incorporation, and constituted it at the same time one of the cities in which he had established a royal mint. We also find that in 1483 it was ranked among the principal towns in which a coin of the reign of Richard III. was, by Act of Parliament, made current. Like many of the neighbouring towns, it was the scene of many stirring events arising out of the wars waged by the Earls of Desmond against the English government. In 1642 the Irish army, under the command of Lord Mountgarret, took possession of the town, which, in the following year, was besieged by Lord Inchiquin, but without success. The castle, in 1645, however, fell into the hands of the parliamentary army, and the fortifications were soon after dismantled by order of the great leveller, Oliver Cromwell. They were subsequently restored by the corporation, but were again destroyed by the Irish forces, under the command of the Duke of

Berwick, in 1690. The corporation continued to send two members to the Irish parliament until the passing of the Act of Union, when the borough was disfranchised, and the sum of £15,000, awarded as compensation, was paid to Richard Oliver, Esq., who subsequently took the additional name of Gascoigne. There are three fairs held here in the year.

Kilmallock is justly celebrated for its fine ecclesiastical establishments, the ruins of which bear ample attestation of their extent and grandeur. The church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, and formerly collegiate, is situated east of the town, very near the verge of the western bank of the river, and is a spacious ancient structure, partaking of various styles of English architecture, whose elaborate details afford ample food for the architect and man of taste, whose delight it is to scrutinise the works of bygone years, and to trace the beauty and grandeur of the artistic arrangements which characterise them. This fine remnant of other days stands within the ancient surrounding cemetery, and consists of the nave, choir, aisles, and south transept; the choir, having many years since been fitted up for Divine service, forms the Protestant parochial church. The other portions of the grand edifice remain roofless since the year 1657, when it was partly destroyed by Cromwell. The entire length is about 150 feet, and the breadth of the nave and side aisles, irrespective of the transept, 70 feet. The transept is about 36 feet in length. The nave is divided from the aisles by pointed arches of lofty and elegant proportions, supported by massive pillars of some 6 feet square. The side entrance to the nave on the south is by a magnificent arch, richly moulded, with head bordering of the most delicate and beautiful chiseling. Above the entrance in the western end of the nave, with its elegant side columns and rich label-moulding, is a fine window of three lights, and in this end of the south aisle, one of two lights. At the intersection of the nave and aisle on the north side is a magnificent round tower, which, from its immediate contact and connection with the building, leaves no doubt as to its ecclesiastical character; it rises to a height of between 50 and 60 feet. There are some fine monuments within the nave and aisles, and altar-tombs in the transept, which have been erected to the distinguished families of Fitz-Gerald, Vernon, Healey, and others. Among those of modern date is one to Eyre Evans, Esq. The choir, which, as before mentioned, has been converted to Protestant worship, still preserves many of its grand features—the chancel window of five lights being quite perfect, while the entrance door in the south side of this part of the building, though now built up, displays its rich and beautiful head moulding. The side windows of this portion of the ancient structure are of two lights; while those in the end and sides of the transept are also in fine preservation, there being two tall slender lights in the end, and in the eastern side one of four lights, and in that of the west one of three lights.

The ruins of the Dominican monastery, founded on the eastern side of the river Lubach, about a furlong from the town, are exceedingly grand, the choir especially being one of the most perfect and beautiful specimens of architecture to be seen in any part of Ireland. This magnificent abbey, which was founded and amply endowed by Gilbert, son of John of Callan, and Lord of Offaly, in the year 1291, continued to flourish till the dissolution of the monasteries, when it was granted by Elizabeth to the corporation. The splendid ruins are situated in an extensive lawn or meadow, near the eastern bank of the river Lubach, which, from its curving character, as it flows beneath a bridge of seven arches, and sweeps from south to north-east, has acquired the designation of the Twist. These interesting remains consist of the lofty square tower, and the choir of the church

REMAINS OF THE DOMINICAN ABBEY OF KILMALLOCK.

of the abbey. The choir, which is in a state of comparative preservation, is about 60 feet in length by 20 in the clear, and is rendered particularly interesting by the uncommonly beautiful chancel window, and the equally beautiful Gothic windows, six in number, whose heads display unmistakable evidence of elegant tracery, which occupy its southern side. The magnificent chancel window of five lights occupies the entire gable of this part of the building, and with its divisional columnar mullions and elegantly curved arches, excites the liveliest admiration. The immense arch, with its thrice repeated moulding and splendid side columns, which spans and encloses the compartments of this window, is exceedingly grand, and constitutes,

on the whole, one of the finest and noblest features of the kind which I have seen. The beautifully-arched and elegantly-wrought sedilia in the chancel displays evidence of the greatest refinement in art; while the remains of the doors and windows of the other portions of the building, which are in a more ruined state, and the domestic part on the north, appear to be in keeping with the character and style of this once glorious pile. The tall and graceful central tower, which is supported on corresponding lofty arches, commands the visitor's marked attention, and from its western side having fallen, reminds him of the famed yellow steeple at Trim. Nearer to the bank of the river are the remains of the abbot's private residence, which, in the year 1604, is said to have been inhabited by the White Knight, whose tomb, now in a broken state, may be seen in the elegant choir already alluded to.

The Catholic church, a plain cruciform edifice of nearly fifty years standing, is situated on the western bank of the river, opposite to, and at a short distance from, the almost matchless ruins just mentioned, and at an equal distance from the church and churchyard of St. Peter and St. Paul. The interior is well laid out, and the altars decorated with saintly statues; while deep galleries occupy the ends of the nave and transepts. From the general character of the building, however, which, like most of the churches of the same style and of the same period, lacks the principal essential for comfort and convenience, namely, elevation, it is my sincere wish that the respected parish priest, the Very Rev. Dr. Downes, will soon be enabled to erect a church more in accordance with the progressive spirit of the age. The only important modern building here is the union workhouse, which is constructed of fine materials, and, as seen from the line of road leading from Kilfinnane, gives an air of importance to the town.

Proceeding to Kilfinnane, which is about the size of Kilmallock, from which it is some five miles distant, the tourist will notice, about two miles from the latter town, a handsome Roman Catholic church of modern erection, called the Chapel of Ballingaddy, which is a part of the liberty of the parish priest of Kilmallock. In the centre of the town of Kilfinnane is a handsome building, the under story of which is used as a market-house, and the upper portion appropriated to a school under the National Board of Education. In the same vicinity is another school, under the same Board, for the education of female children. On the north side of the principal or main street are the ruins of an ancient castle, said to have been built by a member of the Roche family; and in its immediate vicinity are the remains of the old Protestant church, which, until the new one was opened within the last six or seven years, was used for Divine worship; it now consists only of the roofless walls and gables. The Catholic church is also situated in this part of the town, and is a good house of worship of cruciform character, with a corresponding tower

and steeple, which is surmounted by a handsome cross. There is a gallery in each end of the transept, as well as in that of the nave, and the interior in general is well laid out and very nicely kept. The altars are comparatively rich and appropriately decorated—a figure of St. Andrew, with his cross, appearing above and in the rear of the tabernacle of the central one; while that on the Gospel side is surmounted by a statue of the Blessed Virgin, the Epistle side being enriched with one of St. Patrick.

The new Protestant church, which is situated in the south-western part of the town, is a neat edifice in the Gothic style, consisting of the nave, chancel, and south aisle. A handsome tower with short spire rises on the north-western extremity of the building, and immediately east of it is a very nice porch. The chancel window, and also that in the western end of the nave, are of three lights; while those of the north side of the nave and the south aisle are of coupled lancets, with ornamental label-mouldings. It is very gratifying to find that the plain style of the last fifty or sixty years is now being abandoned, and the more beautiful classic style adopted in most of the new Protestant churches which have fallen under my observation. Immediately south of this church is an ancient verdant rath, from the summit of which can be obtained an extensive view of the fine champaign country to the north, which extends to the proverbially fertile vale of Kilmallock. This town, which is a parish in the barony of Costlea, is situated within a range of mountains, by which it may be said to be encircled on all sides but that of the north, which opens towards the extensive plain that, entirely divested of plantations, may be seen stretching for miles in the distance. A sessions house and bridewell, and also a fever hospital, were, several years since, erected in the town. In this neighbourhood, and also in that of Kilmallock, are several handsome seats, many of which command fine mountain views. Castle Oliver, an old and celebrated place, which, as well as the town of Kilfinnane, is the property of R. Oliver-Gascoigne, Esq., is situated about two statute miles west of the town, and is rendered conspicuous by a castellated ruin that stands on the summit of a finely-rounded hill in its immediate vicinity. There is a large and commodious hotel in the town, which is the resort of the commercial travellers who visit the district, from some of whom I learned, with much gratification, that, for a town of its class, Kilfinnane is a good business place.

The ride from this town to Glenroe is exceedingly interesting, as mountain scenery of bold and sublime character arrests the attention and excites the admiration of the traveller in his onward progress. On the west a dark range, terminating in a lowering precipitous height called Black Rock, presents itself; while on the east is a group called the Killeen and Moorstown mountains. The new line of road, as it sweeps along the verge of the capacious valley, and the margin of the finely-planted elevation called Thomastown Wood, is

pregnant with interest; the umbrageous richness and the varying hues of the youthful and vigorous plantations reminding the traveller, as he views them in the autumn season, of the almost unrivalled beauty of the woods of the celebrated Inistioge, in the neighbourhood of its enviable namesake, Thomastown, in the county of Kilkenny. On the opposite side of the glen, the extensive hill of Barabanoco presents itself, and appears to great advantage, as considerable portions of its sides and summit are nicely-planted; the intervening spaces afford excellent pasture for sheep and young stock. This picturesque district, which has long been designated Daragh-Glenroe, which signifies the "oaks of the red valley," is a parish in the barony of Costlea, county of Limerick, about four miles from Kilfinnane. It is said to have derived its name from an ancient and extensive forest of oaks in the Vale of Glenroe, extending from the hills of Glenasheen to the river at a place called Towerlegan. The Catholic church of Glenroe, which is about 70 feet in length by 32 in breadth, is a very nice house of worship, upon which the greatest care is bestowed, the surrounding area, as well as the interior of the church, alike affording unmistakable evidence of taste and refinement. There are four mullioned windows of Gothic character on each side of the building, while the interior is nicely laid out and partly occupied with seats and kneeling places. The centre and side altars, for a rural district, are rich and beautiful, and reflect no small degree of credit on the painstaking parish priest, the Very Rev. Dr. Meehan, who resides in a handsome house beneath the mountain range called Castle-Gale, on the highest point of which is a small castellated structure, in which sporting parties are wont to dine, there being extensive fox-covers on the sides of the mountain.

Returning from this part of the county to the city of Limerick, I stopped for one evening and the following day—which was Sunday—at the comfortable small town of Bruff, where I found excellent quarters at the commodious hotel kept by Mr. Fogarty, who is also the proprietor of a large posting establishment, and who, in addition, horses the mail car which runs along this line from Limerick to Charleville, and passes through the towns of Kilmallock and Kilfinnane, already mentioned. This town, which is a parish in the barony of Coshma, about twelve miles from Limerick, appears to have been a place of importance at an early period, as we are informed that a castle was built here by a member of the De Lacy family, and another at some distance from the town by the same person, in the reign of Henry III. It is situated on the river Dawn or Morning Star, a fine trout stream, and consists of one principal or main street, and a few smaller streets, in which are several good houses and neat shops. The market is on Friday, and fairs are held in the months of May, July, October, and November. The most striking and remarkable feature in the town is the commodious Catholic church, which is finely situated on an open and elevated site in the eastern part of the

town; it is a fine oblong structure in the English-Gothic style of architecture, and greatly resembles the noble church of the Dominican Fathers at Limerick. It is entered in the centre of a slight projection in the middle of the handsome gabled front, which displays itself to the street, and by a door of smaller size on each side of the façade. Above the central door is a nice window of two mullions; while over each of the side doors is one of corresponding style, of a single mullion. Five windows of similar style and dimensions as those last mentioned, light each side of the church. On the apex of the western gable, above the large window, stands a massive characteristic cross; while on the east or chancel end rises the belfry, containing a clear-toned bell. The sides of the building and the barge ranges of the gables are decorated with embrasures and ornamental pinnacles. The ceiling is enriched with groinings and divisional panels, and the arches of the internal heads of the windows ornamented with label-mouldings, which spring from exquisitely-formed and hooded female heads. The altar is uncommonly beautiful, and consists of several compartments, the exquisite panelling and elaborate crocketing of which are calculated to excite astonishment and admiration. A series of elegant statuettes, three on each side of the richly-gilt tabernacle, are supported on ornamented pedestals, and over each of them a splendidly-carved canopy, with fine gildings on the cusps and divisional parts of the ingenious artistic ornaments. Above the tabernacle is a fine painting representing our Blessed Redeemer as taken down from the cross, his Blessed Mother overcome and quite exhausted with her unheard-of sorrows, faintly clasping his drooping neck; while the devoted Magdalene, and the faithful third Mary, filled with anguish, are hanging over the murdered object of their love and adoration. In the vicinity of this handsome church, which is of some twenty-seven years' standing, is the Court House, a commodious building; there is also a small bridewell in the town.

The Protestant church, which has recently been rebuilt on the site of the former edifice, and to the tower and spire of which it is attached, is a handsome structure in the plain English-Gothic style, with an apse at its south or chancel end, the tower and spire being on the north. There are three windows, undivided by mullions, on each side of the church, and three of the same character in the sides of the apsidal adjunct. This church is situated in a cemetery on the eastern side of the river, which, in this part of the town, flows from south to north, and after passing beneath a new and handsome bridge, pursues its course in a north-easterly direction. At the foot of this bridge, on the eastern side, are the remains of the ancient castle of the De Lacys. The other castle, erected by this once powerful family, is situated on the lands of Ballygrennan, about half a mile from the town, and is an extensive and grand ruin, which, with its court and appurtenances, occupies about two acres of ground. The principal portion of the grand central keep is still in tolerable preser-

vation, but the domestic parts, the tall chimneys of which apprise the traveller of their extent and importance, have nearly all fallen. The architraves of the windows, and the slit lights in general, are some of the finest I have seen in any building of the kind. This magnificent ruin is on the estate of Lord Carbery, as are the hotel and extensive concerns of Mr. Fogarty.

While the tourist and the lover of the antique in architecture will find much to interest him in the ruin just mentioned, the Christian philosopher and man of progress will find in this small town objects eminently calculated to awaken feelings of unqualified admiration and delight. These are to be found in the handsome and commodious school-house, which has been erected within the last six or seven years; and in the magnificent nunnery, and the almost equally extensive and beautiful Christian Brothers' establishment, that within the last three years have been called into existence by the praiseworthy exertions of the good and zealous parish priest, the Very Rev. Dr. Cussen, Vicar-General of the diocese. The nunnery is a spacious mansion of four stories, with a light square tower rising in the centre of its principal front, in the upper story of which is a nice clock, while the summit of its conical roof is surmounted by an ornamental cross. The Christian Brothers' institution is also a very fine house of three stories, but not so large as the nunnery; while the residence of the enlightened and benevolent Doctor and his two curates, likewise a handsome house of three stories, is situated in the centre of the ample space that intervenes between the two interesting buildings just mentioned; the whole of the surrounding grounds opening to each other. Large numbers of both sexes derive the benefit of a good, and, in some instances, a refined education, through the medium of these invaluable institutions. The ladies of the nunnery, who are of the order of the Faithful Companions, under the strict rule of the Jesuits, are twenty-five in number, and employ themselves in imparting an elegant and liberal education to a large number of boarders and day pupils; finding, at the same time, leisure to teach and instruct the poor female children of the district. Here, on Sundays, the servant girls of the neighbourhood, whose duties during the ordinary days of the week preclude them from attending these schools, congregate, and, availing themselves of the charitable instructions of the good and pious sisters, endeavour to acquire the rudiments of education, from which, by the force of unfortunate circumstances, they were shut out in early life. While here I learned, from reliable persons, that young married women have learned to read and write while attending the Sunday-evening class.

At the Christian Brothers' schools similar advantages are afforded, and during the Sunday evening which I spent here as many as 100 boys of the town and neighbouring district were in attendance at their class. It requires no great stretch of the imagination to enable one to conceive the advantage that must result, not only to the

youths themselves, but even to the community at large, from such a course of training, as it will keep them from the haunts of idleness and folly, and enable them to become better Christians, and, as a matter of course, better men. It is not a little surprising to find that amid the multiplied cares and onerous duties arising from his extensive union, in which, besides his fine church at Bruff, there are two out-chapels, one at Grange and the other at Meanas, the Very Rev. Dr. Cussen still finds leisure to instruct and delight the reading portion of the public by his admirable disquisitions on subjects connected with the antiquities of the country. During this my last visit to Limerick, in the month of October, 1860, this dignified ecclesiastic and elegant scholar put forward a couple of letters, through the columns of the *Limerick Reporter and Tipperary Vindicator*, in reference to the grand Cathedral of St. Mary's, Limerick, which were read with avidity and delight by persons of every shade of feeling in that city.

On the western side of the river, north of Fogarty's hotel, is a handsome building of moderate dimensions, called the Adelaide School, which is under the care and direction of the Protestant rector. This town, which, on the whole, may be called a thriving and prosperous place, was formerly the property of the Hartstonge family, but at present forms part of the estate of the Earl of Limerick, who, I have reason to believe, is a good and liberal landlord. The ground upon which the Very Rev. Dr. Cussen built the school, nunnery, and Christian Brothers' house, is the property of his lordship; and I rejoice, from what I have heard, to be enabled to say, that his dealings with the good Doctor have been most liberal, as he not only gave him the ground for a very long term of years, but also at a very moderate rent. Castellated ruins are very numerous in the county of Limerick, there being, according to some accounts, not less than 100 of every grade within it. In the neighbourhood of Dromin, on the summit of a handsome hill, is a very picturesque ruin of this class, which arrests the traveller's notice from the resemblance it bears to the renowned Rock of Cashel, of which, in the distance, it appears to be a perfect miniature likeness. Dromin, which is a parish in the barony of Coshma, is about three statute miles from Bruff, and is a fertile and well-cultivated district. In the Roman Catholic divisions it forms the head of a union or liberty, in which there are two churches, one at Dromin, near which are the ruins of the ancient parish church, and the other at Athlacca. The parish priest, the Rev. Patrick Ryan, and his curate reside in a neat thatched cottage, between both chapels.

Proceeding from Bruff to Limerick, the tourist will notice several handsome seats, including Rockbarton, the beautiful residence of Lord Guillamore, on a part of which estate is the nice Protestant church, and at some distance from it the residence of the incumbent, with the adjoining glebe-lands. The fine seat of Paget O'Grady, Esq.,

brother to the first Lord Guillamore, is situated about three miles from Bruff, and is a very handsome place. Proceeding onwards, may be noticed, on the same side of the road, a strong defensive castle of plain character, which, being based on the summit of a small elevated rock, reminds the traveller of the rock-perched tower at Ferry Carrig, near Wexford. Having thus noticed some of the most prominent features in the renowned city, and also a few in the most interesting county of Limerick, the tourist, should he feel so disposed, may, with great facility, proceed to the Lakes of Killarney by the Foynes railway, and by the swift steam-boat, which starts for Tarbert on the arrival of the midday train. Tarbert, which is situated on the south bank of the Shannon, thirty-five miles from Limerick, nine from Kilrush, twenty-six from Tralee, and 126 from Dublin, forms a portion of the parish of Kilnaughten, in the barony of Iraghticonnor, and county of Kerry. The bay, which extends before the town and the island, is an excellent roadstead, and may be considered the best safety harbour in the Shannon for vessels navigating that river. On the island, which is about a mile from the town, have been erected a battery and bomb-proof barrack, upon which are mounted several guns and howitzers. A lighthouse has been constructed on the acclivity of the northern point of the island, and a pier on the south-eastern side. The Catholic church, a handsome structure, is situated in the town; and the Protestant church, also a neat edifice, about a quarter of a mile from it. Here likewise is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists; with schools under the National Board of Education, and the trustees of Erasmus Smith's Charity. These, with the extensive stores erected here some years since by the great firm of Russell and Co., give an air of importance to this small place. Proceeding from this town to Tralee, the traveller will notice, in the neighbourhood of Listowel, the handsome seat of the Knight of Kerry, who, as well as the Knight of Glin, is a Fitz-Gerald, and a descendant of the Earls of Kildare or Desmond. Listowel may be called a fresh and good-looking small town, with an ample and commodious market-square, on one side of which is the Protestant church; and on its western side an equally handsome Catholic church. West of the latter may be seen the ancient Castle of Listowel, and in its vicinity a large mill. Here also are a Sessions House, Bridewell, Fever Hospital, National School, and a comfortable-looking hotel. At some distance from the town is the union workhouse, and at a short distance from it a nunnery. This town, which is a parish in the barony of Iraghticonnor, about seventeen miles from Tralee, and 134 from Dublin, is situated on the right bank of the river Feale, which is crossed by a fine bridge of five arches, each 50 feet in span. In the vicinity of the town is situated the seat of the Earl of Listowel, the owner of the property on which the town stands, which at this time was occupied by his lordship's agent. Tralee, the capital of the county of Kerry, is a good and improving town, finely situated at the

foot of a lofty range of mountains, by which it is sheltered on the south and partly on the west. West of this group appear the Dingle mountains extending to Connor Hill, a very high and handsome mountain; while still west of that may be seen the bold and striking Brandon Head, which forms the north-western extremity of the grand chain of the Kerry mountains. The principal or main street of Tralee, may be said to consist of Castle Street, the Mall, and Bridge Street, which all run in a continuous line. South of Bridge Street is a small square, three sides of which are occupied by shops, and the fourth or north side by an old and decayed market-house. On the site where formerly stood the ancient and important fortress called Desmond's Castle, a new street was, some years ago, opened, and named, after its present proprietor, Denny Street. This handsome street, which is both wide and regular, with its houses of a superior description, leads into a richly-planted lawn called the Green, wherein is a very neat lodge occupied by William Denny, Esq., brother and agent to Sir Edward Denny, Bart., the owner of the property on which the town stands. This green, which comprises the grounds formerly appertaining to the castle, is finely laid out in landscape garden style; the walks being of considerable width, nicely gravelled, and fringed with beauteous trees and ornamental flowering shrubs. A fine capacious walk extends from Bridge Street to the canal basin, which is about a quarter of a mile from the town, including within it the following handsome places, the Terrace, Day Place, and the Prince's Quay. The length of the canal, which was opened within the last twenty-six years, from the bay of Tralee to the town, is about two miles, and it is available for vessels of moderate draught of water. That part of the bay in which ships of large tonnage can anchor with perfect safety is about two miles from the pier-head, which forms the entrance to the canal. The Protestant church of this town is a handsome edifice with a nice tower and spire, and a very beautiful east window of stained glass. The Catholic church, which, when I paid my visit to Tralee, was a house of long standing and cruciform character, was then about to be replaced by a building more in keeping with the progressive spirit of the times, and more suited to the wants of the respectable congregation; and I rejoice exceedingly to find that the contemplated project has since been carried into effect. There is also a new Scotch church in the town; and in Denny Street, a very neat Methodist chapel called the Hope Church. The Court House, which is centrally situated, is a remarkably fine building constructed of pure granite, and based on a platform of the same rich material. The entrance is beneath a portico formed by six columns of the Ionic order in the front, and by four of the same order in the rear, with pilasters of similar character. There are two good hotels in the town, the Blennerhassett Arms, a commodious house with an attached ball-room, being the principal. In the eastern suburbs, about a quarter of a mile from the town, are situated the jail and the military barracks;

the latter, with their appurtenances, comprising about fifteen acres, are capable of accommodating 500 men. In this neighbourhood is a distillery and also an extensive brewery, situated on the bank of a river that flows through a handsome vale. There is a convenient corn-market in this town, with a pretty little exchange; and also a butter-market and shambles, all contained within a walled-in area of about two acres. These markets were erected by the merchants of the town; the rent of the ground, which is £70 a year, is provided for by a moderate toll. There are branches of the Bank of Ireland, Provincial, and National banks in the town. Here, also, is a branch of the great firm of Russell and Co., of Limerick. There are a County Infirmary and Fever Hospital here; with some public schools, besides those established under the National Board of Education, and the pious Nuns of the Presentation Convent. The union workhouse is situated about half a mile from the town, and was at this time showing a considerable decrease in the number of its inmates. This town, which is a parish in the barony of Trughenackmy, about fifty-eight miles from Cork and 151 from Dublin, is said to have derived its name, anciently called Traleigh, which signifies, "the Strand of the Leigh," from its situation on the river Leigh, that after flowing through the town empties itself into the capacious and sandy bay. The earliest historical notice in reference to this town with which I am acquainted is that which arises from the foundation of a Dominican abbey, built by John Fitz-Thomas, one of the Geraldines, in the year 1213. This nobleman being slain, together with his son Maurice, and several of his followers, in a battle fought at Callan against McCarthy More, was interred in the church of this monastery. As an instance of the violence of the times of which I am now speaking, we are informed that in the year 1325, Maurice Fitz-Maurice, fourth Lord of Kerry, slew Dermot McCarthy in the presence of the judge of assize, for which, it has been stated, he was severely punished, but with the nature of the punishment inflicted on him we have not been made acquainted. The reluctance manifested by some of the descendants of the Anglo-Normans, or early English adventurers, to submit to the rule of the English government was strikingly exemplified in the case of the Earl of Desmond, who, in the year 1576, claimed the privilege arising from his palatinate, to exempt himself from being amenable to the jurisdiction of the king's judges. On the landing of the Spaniards at Smerwick, in the year 1579, Sir Henry Davels, who had been sent by the Lord-Deputy to summon the Earl of Desmond to join him with his forces to repel the invaders, on his return after having discharged his mission was killed at Tralee by Sir John Desmond, a relative of the earl. During the war which commenced in 1641, this town, like many others, suffered severely, and on the approach of Lord Inchiquin was destroyed by the Confederate Irish to prevent him from making it his head-quarters. In the year 1691 it underwent a similar destruction on the approach of

King William's forces. Tralee had a charter of incorporation conferred upon it in the reign of James I., and under it sent two representatives to the Irish parliament, but since the passing of the Act of Union it sends one member to the Imperial parliament; while the corporation was abolished by the Irish Municipal Corporations' Act. The markets are held on Thursday and Saturday; and there are eight fairs in the year. Leaving Tralee for Killarney, the traveller will notice an ancient ruin called Ballymakelliget Castle, near which is a neat Protestant church, a very remarkable and interesting feature. Approaching Killarney, the tourist becomes struck with several highly interesting objects, one of the most prominent and beautiful of which is Glenflesk Castle, the fine seat of Cronin Coltsman, Esq., which appears on a richly-planted elevation, rising as it would seem between picturesque and lofty mountains. But although presenting to the eye of the visitor so close a proximity to the apparently encircling mountains, it is, in reality, some miles from them. Here also the exceedingly rich and beautiful grounds that constitute the magnificent demesne of the Earl of Kenmare display themselves; and in their vicinity public buildings, as interesting as they are useful, enrich and embellish the scene. These consist principally of the new and majestic Catholic cathedral, the Lunatic Asylum, and the Union Workhouse.

CHAPTER XXII.

LAKES OF KILLARNEY, KENMARE, AND GLENGARIFF.

BEFORE entering on the lakes or making his excursion to the Gap of Dunloe, the tourist will find it his interest to avail himself of the advantage of riding along the celebrated Kenmare Road, as from its commanding elevation the geography of this far-famed district will, to a certain extent, be rendered familiar to him. Passing in a southerly direction from the town of Killarney, and crossing the capacious stone bridge that spans the river Flesk, he will quickly arrive at the Torc Hotel, which is enviably situated, and commands an admirable view of the magnificent scenery that so plentifully abounds in this delightful neighbourhood, and where, should he wish to become a sojourner, excellent accommodation can be obtained. Approaching the renowned Muckross, the extensive and beautiful seat of the Right Hon. Colonel Henry Arthur Herbert, two neat and fanciful cottages arrest the visitor's attention, one of which has been converted to a post-office, and the other to a National school. These pretty cottages were erected by Colonel Herbert, and are in the immediate vicinity of an extensive and verdant area, which he has appropriated to a fair-green. In this vicinity is situated the Muckross Hotel, an excellent establishment, at this time kept by Mr. Roche, who was also the proprietor of the hotel at Glengariff. This house is conveniently located, and much frequented by fashionable visitors, as it affords them an opportunity of viewing, at their leisure, Muckross Abbey, with the beautiful grounds of Muckross House, and the Torc Waterfall. There is another well-appointed hotel at this place, where excellent accommodation can be found.

Passing hence, the Torc mountain, with its celebrated cascade, presents itself, and from its noble appearance and great altitude, becomes a remarkably striking and sublime feature. This mountain, which is 1,764 feet in height, rises on the southern shore of the middle lake, to which it also gives the appellation of Torc Lake. This magnificent sheet of water is sometimes called Muckross Lake, from its proximity to the truly magnificent demesne, which nearly encircles its north and east sides. The cascade, which is formed on this mountain, more properly speaking belongs to the great Mangerton, as it is fed by the overflowing of the Devil's Punch-Bowl, on a part of its

summit. On the occasion of my visit, the water fell down the side of the mountain in a gradual descent, and on that part which fronts the lake formed what might be called a gentle cascade; but in rainy weather, or when the reservoir becomes swollen by the melting of the snow on the summit of the giant mountain, it becomes a perfect torrent, the reverberating sound of which can be heard at a considerable distance. Passing Torc Mountain, the visitor will fall in with Sir Thomas Herbert's seat called Torc Cottage, a very beautiful residence, from which can be seen some of the most interesting portions of this grand place. Leaving this delightful cottage, the tourist obtains an excellent view of the Middle or Torc Lake, in which are situated the grey rock known under the denomination of O'Donoghue's Wine Cellar, and another called Devil's Island.

Advancing onwards in this direction, the tourist enters an extensive gorge formed, apparently, by Glena on the right; by Torc on the left; and in the right centre by the Purple Mountain, which is a part of the lofty Toomies; while in the left centre appears the Drooping mountain; and in the background a group of at least a dozen hills, which, presenting themselves, excite the most agreeable surprise, mingled with admiration. Riding along the Kenmare road, which takes its name from the Earl of Kenmare, the owner of the property through which it runs, a curious tunnel, which is cut through the solid rock, and called by the people of the district the Heading, attracts the stranger's attention; it is 45 feet in length, and no mean specimen of engineering skill. Soon after passing through it, the Upper Lake is seen to full advantage, its wide expanse of water, its wood-crowned islands, and picturesque bays, appearing in fine perspective. In some parts these islands are fringed with foliage of every shade, and in others distinguished by features of sublime and rugged grandeur, the enchanting scene at length gradually disappearing in the distance between the swelling and majestic mountains that form its most remote boundaries. Advancing still in this direction, a neat and fanciful building of turret-like character appears amid the surrounding foliage, and is an object as interesting to the beholder as it is rich and peculiar in itself. This neat structure was erected by Colonel Herbert, and was occupied at this time by his caretaker. About two miles from this cottage, the tourist becomes struck with the appearance of a very handsome structure of two stories in height, which is flanked on the east and west by a nicely-ornamented embattled tower. From the vicinity of this remarkably beautiful dwelling, which has been appropriated to a police barrack, splendid views can be obtained of the lakes and mountains. At about half a mile beyond it, from a projecting elevation, can be had a most enchanting view of portions of the three lakes.

Losing sight of Torc Mountain, another bold mountain, called Cromiglaun, presents itself; while about a mile beyond the police barrack appears a fine cascade, which is formed on a part of what is

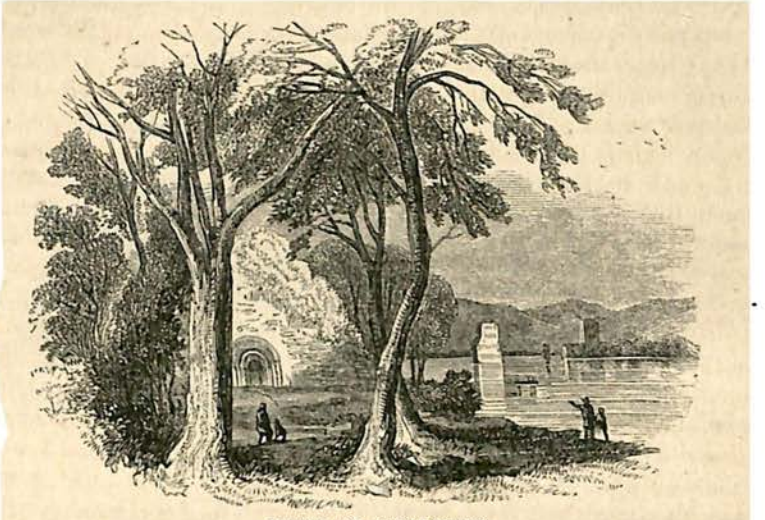
called Galway's River. From this vicinity can be obtained a full view of the Upper Lake, the Gap of Dunloe, the Sugar-Loaf Mountain, Lord Brandon's cottage, and the boat-house, from which the tourist takes the boat that conveys him along the lakes. Currantual, the highest point of Macgillycuddy's Reeks, appeared to great advantage on the evening of my first visit, its prominent peak being quite unclouded; while the summits of Mangerton and the Purple Mountain were alike blue and clear. Tourists have, not unfrequently, to wait for several days, and even then cannot enjoy a similar advantage; for, should the weather be dark and cloudy, the beauties of this renowned place cannot be seen, and, consequently, cannot be fully appreciated or sufficiently understood. Returning from this most agreeable evening ride, I proceeded to the renowned Muckross Abbey, but the time was unfavourable for seeing it to advantage, as the hour was late, it being eight o'clock, and the twilight fast fading into the sombre gloom of night. All was still and silent here, with no indication of life or motion, save that of the bats in their circling aerial flight round the hoar walls of which they are the diurnal tenants, and the slight moaning of the autumnal night blast as it sighed through the branches of the old yew-tree, whose out-stretched and over-spreading arms cover the central area of the cloisters, of which for ages it has been the pride and ornament. The guide endeavoured to console me under the manifest disappointment I experienced, by stating that some connoisseurs preferred visiting the abbey at night.

Having thus spent my evening in seeing all that could minister to my curiosity in so short a time, I returned to my quarters, and made arrangements for starting at an early hour next morning. At the appointed hour I proceeded to Ross Island, accompanied by two smart and intelligent young men, whose boat was moored at the quay of that place. Ross Island, which is about two miles from Killarney, contains about eighty acres, plantation measure, and is separated from the mainland by an artificial channel which is crossed by a bridge; it therefore may be said to form a peninsula, which projects considerably into the Lower Lake. It has been beautifully laid out and formed into rich plantations and ornamental gardens, intersected with nice walks and pleasant drives, and is a favourite resort of its noble owners, especially the Countess of Kenmare, who has a fanciful cottage upon it. The pleasure-grounds are exceedingly beautiful, and possess every variety that art and nature combining can render subservient to the most capricious taste in trees, shrubs, and beauteous flowers; while specimens of the different rocks which characterise the neighbourhood are arranged in fanciful and grotesque piles, and add considerably to the pleasing effect which these rare combinations are calculated to produce. Walking round the island, the boatmen, who are guides on the land as well as pilots on the lakes, take advantage of every available point to direct the visitor's attention to what they affect to deem of great importance—such as the Hen and Chickens,

Rough Island, and a variety of small islets to which they give characteristic designations. Here, however, a view presents itself of a highly important and truly picturesque character, which is the renowned Muckross shore, that embraces within it a great portion of the rich and beautiful grounds of the Right Hon. Colonel Herbert, M.P., the proprietor of this truly delightful place. The ride through these finely ornamented grounds, which are open to the public, would amply repay the trouble and expense of a visit to this part of Ireland. In this vicinity the attention of the visitor becomes directed by the obsequious guides to Crane Island, the Cow Island, Paddy Blake's Island, the Burned Island, the Swallow, the Jackdaw, and O'Donoghue's Coach-and-Four. From parts of Ross Island can be obtained a bird's-eye view of Lady Kenmare's cottage at the foot of Glena. The highest point of this mountain range, which rises immediately from the water, is 2,500 feet. In the same vicinity the Eagle's Nest, which adjoins the Glena Mountain, presents itself, and rising as it does to a height of 1,103 feet, appears a striking and remarkable feature. The guides, who are ever anxious to impress visitors with marvellous ideas regarding this enchanting place, state that eagles build and hatch their young in this mountain, and that eaglets are sometimes procured from their nests there. Those by whom I was accompanied went so far as to say that two of these had been taken thence a short time before by a person who was let down by ropes, in the absence of the parent birds. Some difference of opinion, however, exists in reference to the generally received and popular notion entertained on this subject, as a very respectable gentleman, a native of Killarney, whose intelligence and attainments entitle anything emanating from him to great weight, assured me that the eagles very rarely visit this mountain, and certainly do not, at present, make it their home. That these monarchs of the feathered tribe breed in this interesting region there can be no doubt, but those who, like the gentleman to whom I have alluded, are best acquainted with the locality state that the important process of nidification and incubation is carried out in the towering peaks of the Macgillycuddy range. Having thus indulged in making a circuit of this charming place, we proceeded to the convenient landing-place and entered the boat, and while rowing on the Lower Lake, O'Donoghue's Spy-glass, and also his Pigeon-house, were pointed out. The wind, which blew somewhat strongly from the north-west, kept our boat dancing on the swelling waves, while occasionally a dash of spray reminded us that sailing on this lake, under such circumstances, may be accompanied by sensations not unlike those which are frequently experienced on an open arm of the sea.

As we approached the Island of Innisfallen, O'Donoghue's Library and his Prison were pointed out by the guide; while another grand view of the Toomies and Glena here presented itself. Having landed on the greatly-admired and enviable Innisfallen, which comprises

about eighteen plantation acres, I was greatly struck by the fertility and richness of the soil. Numbers of sheep were grazing upon its fine pasture; they are conveyed on and off the island by large lumber boats. I was informed that a sheep will become fat on this luxuriant pasture in a single month. The timber on this paragon of islets is



ISLAND OF INNISFALLEN.

uncommonly fine, and the trees in general large and spreading. In a hollow beneath a very large ash-tree, of which there are several to be seen here, a tomb was found some years since. There are also some fine elms, and a variety of exceedingly large hollies and hawthorns, to be seen upon it. One of the oldest and largest yew-trees in all Killarney falls under observation on this island. The rich and varied sylvan scenery cannot fail to excite the admiration of the visitor; while the undulating surface, consisting of hill and dale, slope and plain, rock and ravine, gives a picturesque completeness to the whole. The celebrated and accomplished Arthur Young, speaking of this island, says that, "it is the most beautiful in the king's dominions, perhaps in Europe;" while Moore, in his touching farewell, happily and appropriately designates it the "Isle of Beauty." Some remains of the abbey founded by St. Finian, surnamed the Leper, at the close of the sixth century, are still to be seen here. The walls are of plain massive masonry, an old ash-tree overhanging them at one end, and a smaller one overshadowing them on one side, and thus appearing to yield their fostering protection against the further ravages of time. South-west of the abbey ruin, and at some distance from it, are the remains of a long range of buildings, which may have formed a school-house and other offices; and at some distance on the north appear the remains of what may have been the kitchen and other domestic offices. On the north-eastern point of the island stands

the ruin of an oratory or small chapel, in tolerable preservation, with a richly embellished Norman doorway; one or two of the windows being in the same style, with deep bays and narrow vents. It appears that this island was originally called Innis Nessan, from the father of the founder of its venerable abbey, who was descended from one of the most renowned Munster kings; but it was subsequently changed to its present name, as being more descriptive of its natural beauty. In the course of time the abbey came under the rule of Regular Canons of the order of St. Augustine, and became famous on account of the "Annals of Innisfallen," compiled by some of the brethren. These annals, which were written on vellum, have been carefully preserved, and are now in the Bodleian Library, Oxford. They are regarded as being amongst the earliest and most authentic of the ancient Irish records. The manuscript contains fifty-seven quarto leaves, the earlier portion comprising a history of ancient times down to the arrival of St. Patrick in this country, in the year of our Lord 432; and the remaining part a history of Ireland, to the commencement of the year 1320. It is said to have been the work of two monks, the first bringing down its annals to the year 1216, and the other conducting them to the early part of 1320. A short extract, taken from the year 1180, furnishes a clear instance of the importance of the abbey at this period:— "This Abbey of Innisfallen being ever esteemed a paradise and a secure sanctuary, the treasure and the most valuable effects of the whole country were deposited in the hands of the clergy; notwithstanding which, we find the abbey was plundered in this year by Maolderin, son of Daniel O'Donoghue. Many of the clergy were also slain, even in their sanctuary, by the McCarthys. But God soon punished this act of impiety and sacrilege by bringing many of its authors to an untimely end." While here the attention of the visitor is directed by the boatman to the "Bed of Honour," a sort of rude seat formed on a ledge of rock slightly projecting, which is sheltered by the overhanging branches of a yew-tree that grows at one end of it, and upon which visitors are wont to carve their names. It acquired the name of the "Bed of Honour," according to tradition, from a lady who had eloped with her lover from the parental roof having slept during the night on the sheltered ledge, her faithful and virtuous lover respecting and keeping watch and ward over her throughout the night. From this romantic vicinity the great cascade on the Toomies Mountain becomes visible; while the mountain itself appears extending to the eastward for a long distance. Lake View, the fine seat of James O'Connell, Esq., brother to the Liberator, can be seen to great advantage from Innisfallen, as can Mahony's Point, and Aghadoe-on-the-hill, where there is an old churchyard. In the direction of Aghadoe appears Lady Headly's fine mansion, and in convenient proximity to it a handsome church.

Arriving again at Ross Island, I proceeded to view the castle, which, with its extensive bawn and other appendages, covers an area

comprising an acre of ground. The watch or warder's tower stands somewhat apart from the castle itself, three guns being planted on the barbacan or outward wall. This once formidable stronghold is not so much injured by the hand of time as many others which are to be seen in this part of Ireland. It is a tall, square, embattled pile, based on a limestone rock, and is supported by massive buttresses on the land side; while fortified defences project at its north-east and north-west angles. There is a grand room in the centre of the first story of the castle, with a large fire-place and a massive chimney-piece of coarse marble. The summit, from which there are magnificent views, is approached by a winding stone stairs of 101 steps. This fine remnant of the once strong and defensive hold, which afforded ample protection to the feudal chief and his numerous followers, is said to have been erected about the fourteenth century by a descendant of the race of O'Donoghue, the king of the district and lord of the lakes. The "Annals of Innisfallen" state that between the years 1024 and 1238, nineteen out of twenty of the chieftains of this house were slain in open fight or by treachery; one of the latest of them, Jeoffrey, having been, with his wife, brother, and three sons, burned in his house through the treachery of his own huntsman. Ross Castle is rendered famous in history, as being the last in Munster to hold out against the Parliamentary army. In 1652 it was attacked by General Ludlow, who laid siege to it, but it was defended by Lord Muskerry, who had a sufficient force and plenty of provisions. When, however, the garrison saw a number of armed boats, each capable of containing 120 men, which Ludlow placed on the lake, they became so terrified, by the apparent fulfilment of a prophecy that the castle could only be taken by vessels of war, that they lost all confidence, and in their panic surrendered to the enemy.

During the long war at the end of the last and the commencement of the present century, the bawn and out-buildings were converted into barracks. Several legends are told relative to the kings or chiefs, who were the ancient owners of this island; among which is that of O'Donoghue, who, by a species of enchantment, has been doomed to dwell beneath the waters of the lake, and there must remain until by an annual, or as some say a septennial, ride over the surface of the lake, the silver shoes of his white horse are worn out by coming in contact with its waves. Another legend tells how this lake-king won the love of a fair damsel named Una, who, for seven years, was wont to meet him in her boat, on the morn of the 1st of May, and how, on the seventh May morn, he placed her on his steed, and, descending with her beneath the dark but clear waters, she was seen no more on earth. The boatmen also tell of a chambermaid, who, having, on May morn of the seventh year, seen O'Donoghue, immediately fell sick and died. Having completed my examination of Ross and Innisfallen Islands, and having parted company with my nautical guides, I returned to Killarney through the Earl of Kenmare's

demesne. This magnificent demesne is entitled to the especial notice of the visitor to this renowned locality. From portions of it can be obtained splendid views of the neighbouring mountains; as for instance, from a neat and ornamental bridge that crosses the river Flesk, which winds in a serpentine course through the demesne, may be had one of the best possible views of the whole range, consisting of Glena, the Purple Mountain, and the Reeks, on the right; while on the left an equally fine view of Torc and Mangerton presents itself. The Reeks, which constitute the extreme height of the great Currantual, the most lofty mountain in Ireland, attains an elevation of 3,414 feet; Mangerton rises to a height of 2,756 feet; the Devil's Punch-Bowl, formed on a branch of the mighty Mangerton, is 2,665 feet high; the Purple Mountain, 2,739, and the Toomies, 2,500 feet.

Soon after crossing this nice bridge, the tourist will enter an uncommonly rich and closely-shaded avenue, the overhanging trees of which form natural arches; while the deep murmur of the river, as it flows beside the walk, adds additional charms to this enviable and truly delightful retreat. At the end of this remarkable avenue, after passing a plain bridge of rustic construction, which spans a curve of the river Dinagh, the tourist falls in with another entrance to the demesne. The porter's lodge at this entrance is a very pretty thatched cottage, upon which, and upon the surrounding space, great pains have been bestowed, whereby they have been rendered objects as rich as they are neat and fanciful. On Knockreigh Hill, which rises in the rear of the elegant mansion, is situated Lady Kenmare's favourite rustic cottage, from which can be seen more of the beauties of this great place, and of the lakes and mountains, in a single view, than from any other point in all Killarney. Crowds of visitors were at this time (August, 1850) arriving at Killarney, and the hotels in the town and in the vicinity of the lakes were quite full.

In the month of September, 1853, my ardently felt wish of again visiting the Lakes of Killarney was gratified, as I took advantage of my proximity to their locality, while travelling in Munster, to view them once more. On this occasion I perceived, not without regret, that the town of Killarney was by no means presenting such an appearance as might naturally be expected, from its being the only town in the vicinity of the celebrated lakes, to which, for some years, such increased and increasing numbers of tourists have been flocking. I felt considerable surprise, and not a little disappointment, when I remarked such a total absence of that bustle and activity which, in general, bespeak something like an approach to prosperity. There was, to be sure, about the hotels, the coach, and railway offices, some evidence of business, and cars and omnibuses were frequently to be seen laden with passengers; but, notwithstanding such indications, a close observer could soon discover that the people of business, in general, were not benefited to the

extent that might be expected from these appearances. Having made some inquiry concerning what to me seemed so anomalous and unaccountable, I was informed that the hotel proprietors to whose establishments the generality of tourists and visitors resort, many of which are distant from the town, were not in the habit of drawing their commodities from the shopkeepers of Killarney, but purchased their wines, spirits, groceries, and many other articles, in Dublin and Cork. This, to some extent, will account for the town's not being so prosperous as, under such apparently favourable circumstances, might reasonably be expected. Killarney is a parish in the barony of Magonihy, sixteen miles from Tralee, and 167 from Dublin. Many of the houses in its two principal streets, which were originally of a commodious and respectable character, were at this time showing evidence of neglect, in some instances approaching to dilapidation.

The Protestant church, which is centrally situated, is an edifice of long standing, and of a somewhat peculiar construction. The tower, through which is the entrance, rises in the centre of the building, and, although decorated with embattled ornaments, presents a very plain appearance. An equally plain spire, in the principal front of which is a clock, springs from the summit of the tower; while flanking walls, with embrasure parapets, extend on each side, and rising above the roof of the church, conceal it from the view. The Catholic church is also a plain and old-fashioned structure, surrounded by galleries which are entirely appropriated to pews, and which give it a dark and heavy appearance. The character and limited size of this church rendered the fine new cathedral, then in a forward state, quite a desideratum.

The convent of the Nuns of the Presentation order is finely situated in a handsome area of some dozen acres in extent, nicely laid out in gardens and ornamental grounds. The chapel of the convent is a small structure of long standing. In this nunnery, as in similar institutions, large numbers of girls are educated. The Court House is a handsome building, of moderate dimensions, constructed of cut stone; and adjoining it is a bridewell containing the requisite number of cells and other appendages. The market-house, situated in the principal part of the town, is a small edifice, and, at this time, presented a neglected appearance. One of the upper and principal rooms was used as a temperance-hall, and the other, which is of equal size, was appropriated to a National school. The market is held on Saturday, and there are six fairs in the year. There is a branch of the National Bank in the town. At the time of which I am now speaking (the autumn of 1853), there were four good hotels in the town, of which the Kenmare Arms, then in connection with the Victoria Hotel, was considered the principal. At each of these hotels cars were kept, whereby tourists could be taken to the Gap of Dunloe, or along the interesting Kenmare road; and boats, wherein they might be conveyed along the lakes, and to the largest of the islands. The Killarney Lunatic Asylum is a very rich

and highly ornamental building, consisting of a grand centre, and wings of corresponding beauty. The flanking wings are connected with the centre by low and handsome corridors. The union workhouse is situated in the vicinity of the asylum, and is a very good building of its kind. Here, also, a considerable diminution of the inmates had taken place, the numbers being less, by more than one-half, than they were about a year before.

The magnificent Catholic cathedral, already mentioned, is the most prominent and remarkable object in the neighbourhood of Killarney. Its vast proportions, so perfectly in keeping with the natural grandeur of the locality, added to the pleasing and softening character of its fine architectural construction, displaying as it does such a combination of sublimity and graceful simplicity, constitute it, perhaps, one of the finest churches of its style that can be seen in Ireland. Its great size, and the continuous depression of the times, may in some measure account for its then backward state; Divine service not having, up to that time, been celebrated within it. Externally its appearance was much what it was in 1850, the tower not being raised much higher than the roof. Still it was an object to be looked upon with pride and admiration, and must be, when finished, a lasting memorial of the piety of the age, and of the genius of its designer, the very celebrated Pugin.

On this occasion I paid a visit to Muckross House, the elegant seat of the Right Hon. Colonel Henry A. Herbert, M.P. for the county of Kerry. The mansion is a highly ornamental building in the Elizabethan style of architecture, situated immediately north of the great Mangerton, and is partially sheltered on the west by Torc Mountain. The public are allowed to walk and drive through these transcendently lovely grounds, but boats are not permitted to land upon them. This is, indeed, a great privilege, and one of the richest treats that can be enjoyed in this enviable locality.

On this occasion I paid my long-wished-for second visit to the renowned Muckross Abbey, and had ample leisure to indulge my curiosity in viewing this truly interesting ruin. This famous abbey, which was formerly called Irelagh, was founded by Donald, son of Thady McCarthy, in 1440, and has since continued to be the favourite place of interment for the family. It was rebuilt in the year 1626, but was soon after suffered to fall into decay. It consisted of a nave and choir, transept and cloisters, which are still nearly entire. The principal entrance is by a pointed Gothic doorway, the arch of which is deeply-moulded; while a narrow pointed arch leads into the choir. The eastern or chancel window is of five lights, divided by four mullions, with handsome headed tracery, There is also a very rich Gothic window of three mullions, with ornamental tracery, in what is called McCarthy More's chapel. Besides the tomb of the McCarthy Mores, there is likewise that of the O'Donoghues of the Glens, in this chapel. In the nave is a handsome monument erected to the memory of Mr. Galway, and at a short distance from it one to his wife,

a large mural monument, beautifully executed in Italian marble. The tower, with its slender and beautifully-groined Gothic arches, is an interesting monument of antiquity. The court-yard, which is of quadrangular shape, the cloisters, and the matchless yew-tree in the centre of the square, are objects eminently calculated to attract the tourist's attention. The cloisters run along the four sides of the court-yard, from which they are divided by handsome Gothic arches. Those on the east and west are different in their style of architecture from those on the north and south; one set of them being of pointed character, and the other round or Norman. The tree, especially, which is 800 years old, commands universal admiration, the trunk being 13 feet in circumference. It forcibly reminded me of the magnificent tree of the same species which grows in the centre of the enclosed area, within which are the cloisters of the abbey ruins that are situated in the demesne of Adare Castle, the seat of the Earl of Dunraven. That at Muckross Abbey, however, is older and larger, its umbrageous branches overshadowing the entire quadrangle. On the second story above the range of cloisters may be seen the library, the dining hall, and the kitchen, with various cellars and offices. An oratory or small chapel is situated on the north side of the ruin.

Returning from Muckross Abbey, I visited the Lake Hotel, which is admirably situated on the margin of the Lower Lake, where formerly stood a castle, from which this part of the lake has been called Castlelough Bay. On the site of the old castle, which projects somewhat into the lake, a romantic mound has been formed, which is approached by a winding pathway and steps. It is furnished with seats, and affords an agreeable morning or evening lounge to the visitors who stop at the hotel; who, while chatting and smoking their cigars, can enjoy the delightful views of the Lower Lake and its dozen islets, and of the surrounding hills which here present themselves. Of the castle, which was destroyed in the wars of 1652, there are but a few stones, apparently of rude masonry, now remaining. Considerable improvements, including large additions to the house, had been made by Mr. Cotter, the then proprietor, within the three previous years, on this fine establishment. The withdrawing and dining rooms are commodious and well furnished; the bed-rooms are large and lofty, and laid out in such a style as to be fit for the reception of a nobleman. There were five persons of title stopping at the hotel at this time. From the windows and the neatly-ornamented grounds admirable views of the mountains and the Lower Lake can be obtained. Opposite the south front, and extending to the margin of the lake, are the remains of the old fort or castle already alluded to, the surrounding space being handsomely laid out and planted with evergreens and flowering shrubs. Rustic seats and garden chairs are conveniently placed, where lady visitors, enjoying the magnificent prospect before them, and the pleasant and cooling breezes of the lake, may read and otherwise recreate themselves. The hotel, as it stands at present,

forms three sides of an oblong, two stories in height, and is capable of accommodating about seventy or eighty visitors at the same time. Having returned to Killarney, I set out, with as little delay as possible, to view the delightful seat of Lady Headly, which is situated about two miles from the town, in an opposite direction. I had the good fortune to be permitted to walk through the beautiful grounds, which I was bound to consider a great favour, as they are not open to the public in general, visitors only being admitted to them who bring an order in writing from Mr. Finn, the proprietor of the Victoria Hotel. An exception being made in my favour, I entered the rich lawn, which is divided from the high road by a deep but narrow stream, that is crossed by a nice substantial bridge. The entrance is commodious, the gate light and handsome, and the gate-lodge a very neat cottage with a pentagonal roof. Accompanied by her ladyship's steward, I had the great pleasure of enjoying the magnificent views of the lakes and the mountains, which, as seen from these commanding and pictu resque grounds, are at once extensive and sublime, and considered by the best judges the finest that can be obtained in the United Kingdom. From an elevated part of the demesne, the ample side of the Toomies Mountain, with O'Sullivan's Cascade, is open to the view. The stag-hunt, so greatly admired by all who are so fortunate as to witness it, takes place on the side of this mountain; while that portion of the Lower Lake that lies immediately in front of it is, on such occasions, studded with hundreds of boats, and the scene becomes of the most absorbingly interesting character. Having walked through the pleasure-grounds and gardens, we entered the rich wood on the opposite side of the road, and, by a curving avenue, which is called the Terrace Walk, proceeded to the neat church of Aghadoe, and to the adjoining ancient burial-ground. In the centre of the old churchyard stand the ruins of an ancient church of oblong character, the venerable walls of which are nearly all covered with ivy. In this churchyard I noticed what to me appeared as extraordinary as it was novel, which was the unseemly spectacle of several skulls and human bones that were allowed to remain above the earth, and which were completely bleached by a lengthened exposure to the weather. Here the philosopher is furnished with ample materials for meditation and reflection; and perhaps the imaginative peasant may endeavour to trace out what was once the countenance of some light-hearted acquaintance or village Yorick. Here, too, the poetic genius may soliloquise in something like the following lines of the highly-gifted Byron:—

"Remove yon skull from out the scatter'd heaps;
Is that a temple where a god may dwell?
Why ev'n the worm at last disdains her shatter'd cell!
Look on its broken arch, its ruined wall,
Its chambers desolate, and portals foul:
Yes, this was once ambition's airy hall,
The dome of thought, the palace of the soul:
Behold through each lack-lustre, eyeless hole,

The gay recess of wisdom and of wit,
And passion's host, that never brook'd control:
Can all saint, sage, or sophist ever writ,
People this lonely tower, this tenement refit?"

Portions of coffins were in like manner permitted to remain overground, and had, as I conceived, a very unsightly appearance. On inquiry, I found that both bones and coffins, when raised from the earth in the digging of graves, are never again placed in the ground, but are suffered to moulder into dust in the open air. While I was engaged in examining the tombs and monuments in this ancient repository of the dead, a funeral arrived at the churchyard. The coffin appeared to be that of a child of perhaps eight or nine years old. Several of the women who accompanied the funeral knelt upon some of the surrounding graves, and became loud in their lamentations. Their wailings, which were of a truly melancholy character, appeared to me not a little extraordinary, as the graves over which they knelt did not seem to be of recent formation. On consideration, I came to the conclusion, that the cries of the women were more or less portions of the species of keening or lamentation for the dead, which is peculiar to this part of Ireland, and which, doubtless, has been traditionally preserved. In early times, we know, each of the great lords or chiefs had his household bard, whose duty it was to record the renowned and heroic deeds of the family or sept; and who, upon the decease of a member of the clan, whether he fell in war or otherwise, was wont to recite his great actions, and recapitulate his virtues. These strains, as a matter of course, being tinged with melancholy, were poured forth in accents of pathos and sadness; and when altered circumstances deprived the native prince or chief of his feudal tenure, the bard or senachie could no longer be retained. The occupation of the professional panegyrist being gone, the race itself soon became extinct, and the only traces of it that now exist are those which are to be found among the women in portions of Munster, who, lacking the qualifications of the learned bard, endeavour to make up for them by the loud and affected character of their heart-breaking sorrow. In an adjoining field, immediately south of the burial-ground, is the ruin of what, from its loopholes and other characteristics, would appear to have been a fortified tower. It is of circular form, and constructed of round and hard stones, the joints being filled up with materials of a thin slaty description.

Passing through Lady Headly's property, I saw several labourers employed in cleaning up the ditches along the sides of the road, and many others engaged in reaping wheat of a very superior quality. Upon inquiry, I was a good deal surprised to learn that the highest wages paid for harvest work at this time, in this neighbourhood, was 10*d.* a day, and that without food. Most of Lady Headly's workmen, however, have cottages on her property, and derive advantages from her liberality, which may be considered as an equivalent or set-off

against this apparently low rate of remuneration for their labour. Indeed, her ladyship is considered in the light of a "Lady Bountiful" by her tenants and labourers. At Christmas she supplies each of them, and their wives and children, if they have such, with a suit of clothes, and gives, in addition, a quantity of beef to each family. She never permits any one on her estates to enter the poor-house, but in all cases of distress she sustains or finds employment for them. There is a small neat Catholic chapel, as well as the church already mentioned, on her ladyship's property, at a short distance from her residence. The mansion is of recent erection, and displays much variety in its style of architecture. Her ladyship's woods and grounds abound in game of every description, as she does not allow sportsmen to shoot, or in any manner to disturb them.

On my return from Aghadoe, I paid a visit to the Victoria Hotel, which is also finely situated on the margin of the Lower Lake, and, like the Lake Hotel, is fitted up and furnished in first-rate style. It is not, however, so extensive as the last-mentioned house, being only capable of accommodating between fifty and sixty visitors at one time. The fine Railway Hotel, which is capable of accommodating more than 100 visitors, was at this time being built near the terminus of the Killarney station. On the next morning, which opened propitiously, accompanied by three other gentlemen, I set out for the Gap of Dunloe. Riding along the line from Killarney to this place, we obtained an excellent view of that part of the mountain upon which the stag-hunt takes place; we had also a close view of Mr. James O'Connell's fine seat called Lake View; and somewhat farther on, of Grena, formerly the property and residence of the late Mr. John O'Connell, but now the seat of Mr. Shine Lawler. We likewise obtained an ample view of Mahony's Point, where a gentleman of that ancient name still resides. Soon after we approached a very handsome place called Dunloe Castle, the seat of Mr. Daniel Mahony. On entering the mountain gorge leading to the celebrated Gap, we soon fell in with Kate Kearney's Cottage, where the tourist is invariably invited to partake of goat's milk and "mountain dew." The hostess, who announces herself as the grand-daughter of the far-famed Kate Kearney—whose rich and fascinating smile furnished the poet with a subject for the beautiful ballad that bears her name—is a fine specimen of a clever and thrifty Irishwoman, whose cottage and all about it afford unmistakable evidence of the success which attends her well-managed business. She has not less than 500 goats, while her supply of "mountain dew" appears to be equally abundant. She would willingly lead her visitors to suppose that her beverage is the produce of private enterprise, and manufactured within her native mountains; but of that I am somewhat sceptical, as I could not discover any difference between it and what we were supplied with elsewhere in this neighbourhood. Before we entered the defile leading to the Gap, we met with an extraordinary character, who employs himself in guiding tourists through the mountain pass.

He was mounted on a strong pony, and decently attired for one in his rank of life. A small valise suspended by a leather belt, hung upon his left side, while on his head he wore a cloth cap with a silver band, in front of which appeared an Irish diamond. He stated that this cap, with its appendages, was presented to him by the brother of a sporting Irish marquis. He introduced himself as Sir Patrick Hartnett, the Knight of Dunloe, and said that the honour of knighthood had been conferred upon him by an exceedingly popular Lord-Lieutenant, to whom he acted in the capacity of guide through the Gap, who, as he states, causing him to kneel down, poured the contents of a bottle of "mountain dew" upon his head. Without questioning further the veracity of his tale, we engaged him as our guide, and had no cause to regret having done so, as we found him fully acquainted with all the peculiarities of the route, and ever ready and willing to minister to our amusement, and gratify our curiosity. He knew every available point where the sound of his voice, which was really powerful, could call up the finest echoes, and also directed the discharges of cannon so as to cause them to tell with the best possible effect. The first natural object that he brought under our notice was the mountain called O Donoghue's Hunting-rock; and soon after, the Purple Mountain, which appears of great magnitude as viewed from this quarter. On the opposite side of the defile he pointed out the Bull, so called from its bold and rugged appearance.

While passing this part of the defile, we had occasional showers, which may in some respects be considered an advantage, as they feed the several streamlets which descend the sides of the mountains, and form minute cascades of great variety and beauty. We derived one very great advantage from this cause, which was that of being enabled to witness a remarkable and striking phenomenon. This was a magnificent rainbow, which lay, even for several minutes, in the centre of the deep ravine formed by the bold rock called the Bull and the Purple Mountain. This beautiful object, with its rich tints and party-colours, lay in the very lap of the defile, resting on the roadway over which we had passed but a short time before; and was so truly grand, so eminently beautiful, as to cause all who beheld it to rejoice in the opportunity which was afforded them of seeing so exquisitely lovely a picture. On several occasions, while making our way through the pass, we were encountered by women and young girls, each of whom carried a bottle of milk and a bottle of whisky, or, as they called it, "mountain dew." They were loud in their praises of its resuscitating qualities, and seemed greatly disappointed when, from prudential motives, we felt obliged to decline the proffered beverage. On one occasion we were constrained to take shelter from a shower beneath an overhanging rock, and fell in with some of our fair mountain sisters, who sought refuge in the same place from the over-charged and passing cloud. They were still fair, notwithstanding their unprotected features having been exposed to the summer's

sun, as in this part of Ireland the females of the humbler class do not wear bonnets. While here, however reluctant, we were obliged to partake of some of their potent merchandise.

During this sojourn, a gentleman of our party requested one of the women to favour us with a song, which she kindly and, indeed, gracefully consented to do, and in a very pleasing voice warbled forth what we supposed to have been a love-ditty. The versification seemed mellow and euphonious, and it is with mortification and regret I must confess that, although claiming Ireland as my native country, its beauties were as completely lost upon me as they were upon my companions, who were natives of the sister country, as I do not know a single word of my native language. My fellow tourists, being Englishmen of liberal and enlightened minds, frequently expressed their regret that so many smart and healthy young persons should continue to employ themselves in a way so unsuited to their sex. They said that servants were at that time becoming scarce, and that these young women would be likely to find employment in that useful and creditable walk of life. I could not contravene the cogency of their observations, and could only, in silent sympathy, say, "God help them! for their lot is indeed hard." The disadvantages under which they were brought up, with a scanty education, or, perhaps, none at all, disqualify them in a great measure for discharging the comparatively important duties of domestic servants. Born as they were in a mountain region, where, for a considerable portion of the year, they are liable to be cut off by the snows or floods of winter from an intercourse with the neighbouring districts, and even in summer living more than a dozen miles from the small town of Killarney, it is difficult to suppose that they could have acquired such a knowledge of the business of life as would enable them to become useful and efficient servants. In what school could they have learned the modern mode of washing and doing-up fashionable clothes? Still less was their chance of acquiring a practical knowledge of cooking and preparing food for an opulent family; their experience in this respect being confined to the preparation of the simple potato, or perhaps to the homely meal called "stirabout;" these every-day duties being merely varied by the milking of their mountain goats. With very little training and experience, many of them, I have no doubt, would soon become valuable and faithful servants; but where are the benevolent persons to be found, who will give them a chance by initiating them into the most simple portion of a servant's duties, not to say the mysteries of the most difficult and varied qualifications which belong to what may now be called a craft? When well-practised and experienced servants become candidates for situations, how few are there to be met with who will engage such without a warranty for their qualifications; then where is the chance for such as those of whom I am now speaking? Looking on them, then, in this light, is it wonderful that they are to be found endeavour-

ing to exercise the only kind of profitable industry within their reach, to earn the means of procuring clothing to protect them from the rigour of the approaching and dreaded winter, which to them will but too soon arrive. The intercourse which is likely to take place through the medium of the railway now extended to their neighbourhood may eventually operate in their favour, by opening new sources of employment, in which they may become participators. It is a source of much pain and regret to me, while speaking on this subject, to be obliged to say that a strong prejudice is entertained in England against Irish servants; so much so that it would be little less than rashness for even clever and experienced females of this class to calculate on receiving much encouragement in that country. This unjust feeling, it is to be hoped, will soon die away; and as we become better known to the English public, so in proportion are our people likely to be more appreciated, encouraged, and trusted. In the meantime I sincerely hope that the English tourist will look with a favourable eye on the poor denizens of our splendid mountains, who may be justly considered as the *dramatis personæ* of the sublime scenes in which they are wont to appear, and whose presence is as essential to give a full zest to the tourist's enjoyment as the human figure is necessary to give completeness to a beautiful landscape, or, as elves and fairies are indispensable to furnish and embellish a well-told tale of fairy-land. Nor need visitors overtax themselves in tolerating their presence; the expense of a single whitebait dinner at Blackwall or Greenwich, or of a single ticket for the opera, if judiciously distributed, would be sufficient to cover the entire cost incidental to their passage through the Gap of Dunloe. Emerging from the Gap, the Black Valley, in dark and savage grandeur, displays itself, while the mountain stream that falls downwards from its side forms a magnificent cascade, whose white and silvery foam derives, as it would seem, additional brightness from the sombre aspect of the yawning chasm into which it makes its final bound. The views to be obtained from this elevation are such as call up feelings of intense and exciting interest. Having descended from the head of the Gap, and arrived at Lord Brandon's Cottage, as it is still called, although at this time in the occupation of a gentleman named Chambers, we entered our names in the visitors' book, before taking our seats in the boat, which was in waiting to convey us along the lakes. Colonel H. A. Herbert, M.P., is the owner of the property on which this unique and picturesque cottage stands, Lord Brandon, from whom it derives its name, having been his tenant. This nobleman bestowed great care and pains upon the cottage and grounds, and erected a handsome circular tower, not unlike the celebrated round towers of Ireland, on a portion of the latter. After partaking of some refreshment, which was sent from our hotel in the boat that came for us, and having dismissed our titled and grateful guide, to whose zeal and competency I willingly bear testimony—believing him to be every way worthy,

and duly qualified to act in the capacity of which he appears so justly proud, namely, that of guide to the representative of royalty—we entered upon the Upper Lake. This, the Middle or Torc Lake, and the Lower Lake, communicate with each other, and were early known under the general designation of Lake Lene. Indeed, the three lakes are in reality one vast sheet of water, divided only by islands and narrow channels, the passage between the Lower and Middle Lakes being so circumscribed, as not to exceed a small bridge's length. These lakes are in the centre of a range of lofty mountains—one of which, as before mentioned, is among the most elevated hills in Ireland—which are generally clothed or dotted with evergreen shrubs and stately forest trees of magnificent growth, from the base almost to the summit. The Upper Lake lies quite embosomed in the mountains; the other two, being at the exterior base of the chain of hills, are bounded on one side alone by mountains. In the opposite direction, which may be called the east and north, they unfold themselves to an open and cultivated country, whose surface is enriched and diversified by innumerable undulations, which occasionally swell into finely-rounded hills. The Middle and Lower Lakes are nearly upon the same level, and lie contiguous to each other, being separated merely by the narrow peninsula, Muckross, and the small islands known as Brickeen and Dinas, between which there are channels for boats. From the Middle Lake the Upper stands about three miles distant, and is situated at the head of a navigable river, which flows through a romantic valley or defile, that bears the name of the Long Range. Near the termination of its course this river divides into two branches, one of which flows in peaceful tranquillity towards the west, and falls into the Bay of Glena, in the Lower Lake; while the other, forcing its way through a rocky channel, in a north-easterly direction, issues with considerable impetuosity into the Middle Lake, under the rich woods of Dinas Island. The river separates immediately after passing the Old Weir Bridge; and the beautiful place where the waters of the three lakes mingle is called "The Meeting of the Waters."

These celebrated lakes are considered to be about 30 miles in circumference; and the distance between the two extreme points, the head of the Upper Lake and the river Laune, which is situated at the foot of the Lower Lake, is about 11 miles. The Laune forms the outlet for the waters of the lakes, by which they are conveyed to the harbour of Castlemaine, where they fall into the great Atlantic. The Long Range, as a matter of course, is included in the above estimated distance of 11 miles; while the greatest width does not exceed 2½ miles. The boatmen, however, in order to enhance the value of their services, and if possible to increase their gratuity, assert that the distance from the head of the Upper Lake to the landing-place of the Lake Hotel, in Castlelough Bay, is 14 miles, and that the Long Range is 5 miles in length. In the Upper Lake there are several islands, but none of large size; in the Middle Lake there are only two, which are also

of small size; while the Lower Lake contains upwards of thirty, including islands, islets, and island rocks. The exact length and breadth of the three lakes are given as follows in English miles:—The Upper Lake, 2½ in length, and ½ in greatest breadth. The Middle Lake nearly 2 in length, and ⅞ in breadth. The Lower Lake, 5⅛ in length, and 2½, or nearly 3, in breadth, making the entire length nearly 10 miles; to which must be added about 3 miles for the Long Range, thus making the entire length about 13 miles.

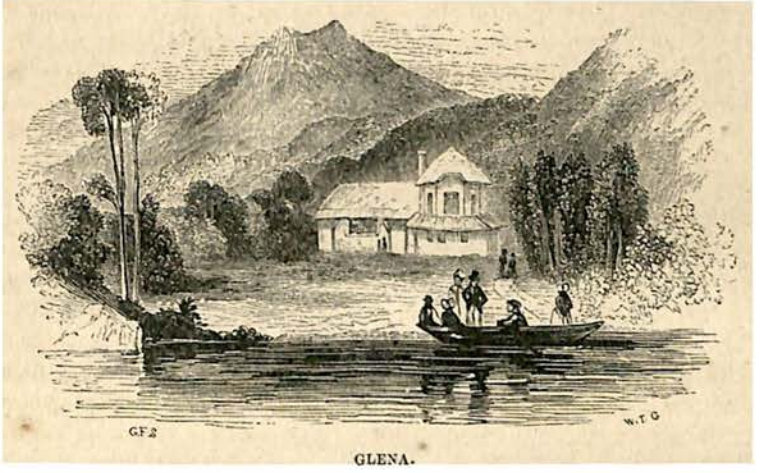
An English tourist, speaking of these beautiful lakes, says, "It is not without interest to contrast these measurements with the dimensions of the Queen of English Lakes. Windermere is nearly 11 miles in length, and has an average breadth of nearly ¾ of a mile; being narrow towards its foot, having a cluster of fourteen islands near the middle, and widening to about a mile at the head. But the soft beauty of this lake has none of the variety of Killarney, each of whose lakes has very distinct characters—the Upper being remarkable for its wild magnificence and fine mountain girdle; the Lower Lake being like a little sea, at times exceedingly strong in current, and with quite a marine ripple on its waves, and it is studded with islands, nearly all richly clothed with evergreens, shrubs, and even ash and other forest trees; while the Middle Lake has more of the English lake character of beauty, mingled with more of grandeur than Windermere possesses. Then the Long Range is something different from all, charming the eye at every turn, by unexpected openings full of beauty. It is more like some portions of the Wye than anything else I have seen."

On entering the boat near Lord Brandon's Cottage, the first object pointed out by the boatmen on the Upper Lake was McCarthy More's Island, upon which we noticed some fine specimens of the arbutus tree. We next fell in with a cluster of islands, of which Ronan's Island is the largest. This island is said to have derived its name from an English gentleman, who, being attracted by its romantic situation, made it his home, and continued to dwell upon it for many years in complete seclusion, avoiding all society, and seldom leaving it except to shoot or fish. Another of this group is Eagle Island, so called as that sovereign of the feathered tribe is frequently seen to perch upon it. The others are Duck and Stag Islands. We were next called upon to notice Juniper Island, which, as may be supposed, derives this appellation from the trees of that name which so plentifully grow upon it. Arbutus Island then presents itself, and, from the large quantities of the beautiful trees of that name which are to be seen upon it, arrests the particular notice of the tourist. West of the Cromiglaun Mountain, which rises on the side of this lake, is the celebrated Derrycunnihy Cascade, so much admired by Her Gracious Majesty the Queen when she paid her visit to the lakes in the autumn of 1861. Proceeding onwards to the Long Range, we passed the remarkable object called Coleman's Eye. Here the Round of Beef

and Leg of Mutton are pointed out—these rocks bearing some fancied resemblance to the substantial and popular viands so well known and so dear to the lovers of Irish hospitality. In our downward progress we passed another islet, called Miss Plummer's Island, although I now forget how it acquired that appellation. Falling down by the Long Range, the boat, with considerable rapidity, sweeps round the base of the Eagle Mountain, the concentrated beauties of which locality constitute it one of the most strikingly interesting scenes that come under the tourist's observation while sailing upon these magnificent lakes. Mrs. S. C. Hall designates this renowned locality the "Realm of Beauty." Speaking of the Long Range and its scenery, this highly-gifted lady thus expresses herself:—"The channel is full of interest and beauty; the water is clear and rapid; and on either side it is amply wooded—'patrician trees' happily mingling with 'plebeian underwood,' through which glimpses of the huge mountains are occasionally caught. About midway in the 'Long Range,' we reach the far-famed Eagle's Nest, the most perfect, glorious, and exciting of all the Killarney echoes. The rock—for, in comparison with the mountains that look down upon it, it is nothing more, although, when at its base, it appears of prodigious height—derives its name from the fact that for centuries it has been the favourite residence of the royal birds, by whose descendants it is still inhabited, their eyry being secured by nature against all human trespassers. The rock is of pyramidal form, exactly 1,103 feet high, thickly clothed with evergreens, but bare towards the summit, where the nest of the birds is pointed out in a small crevice nearly concealed by stunted shrubs." If we have been correctly informed touching the robbery of the Eagle's Nest, and the abstraction therefrom of two eaglets, as already mentioned, Mrs. Hall's notion of its inaccessibility by human agency has proved to be fallacious.

Immediately after rounding this remarkable rock, the beautiful cottage of Lady Kenmare, and the equally delightful one erected by the earl for the use and accommodation of tourists—which is open to all respectable visitors—break upon the view; when the impressions made upon the mind of the tourist by the striking and interesting mountain, to which the swooping eagle gives its name, becomes lost in the softening impulses that at once take possession of his every feeling when he beholds what he would so gladly call his own; and where, in the society of those dear to his heart, he might unquestionably find an earthly paradise. These delightful cottages are situated near the foot of the magnificent Glena Mountain, and the shore of the bay of that name, which forms the southern extremity of the Lower Lake. Having walked through the woods and pleasure-grounds of this fairy region, we took to our boat, and passing through the Old Weir Bridge, which is also called the Danish Bridge, arrived at Dinas Island, where we landed, and had an excellent view of Sir Thomas Herbert's charming seat called Torc Cottage. The old bridge just mentioned consists of two arches—only one of which, however, affords

a passage for boats—and forms an outlet for the waters of the Upper Lake, that, rushing through it with considerable impetuosity, in their progress to the other lakes, create a strong current, which the boatmen designate "The Rapids." The passage down this agitated channel, after the boat shoots the bridge, is, in particular states of the current, attended with some danger; but, with the exception of an increased



GLENA.

impulse in the movement of our boat, we did not experience any inconvenience. In the vicinity of Dinas Island is pointed out the Meeting of the Waters, a beautiful triangular lake-like pool, where the current, dividing, branches into the Middle and Lower Lakes.

Leaving Dinas Island, we entered the Middle Lake, and having rowed round it, again entered the Lower Lake, and landed once more on sweet Innisfallen, where we eagerly indulged ourselves in viewing the several objects of interest and curiosity in which it abounds, and the rare and splendid scenic beauty that presents itself on every side. Specimens of the highly-prized flowering fern are to be seen upon the margin of the lakes, especially in the vicinity of O'Sullivan's Cascade and Torc Mountain. One thing which struck me as being very remarkable in the character of the lakes is the clearness of the water, and its entire freedom from sediment or impurity of any kind.

Leaving Innisfallen, we were soon landed at Ross Island, over parts of which we walked, and concluded our day's pleasure by an examination of the castle. We then mounted the car which was sent for us from the hotel, and arrived at Killarney about six o'clock. The gentlemen with whom I made my tour of the lakes were greatly pleased with all they had seen on this day, as well as with what they had seen in other parts of this country; and, no doubt, returned to their homes impressed with kindly feelings and sentiments regarding Ireland and its people. This belief affords me unalloyed satisfaction, as I am among the number of those who think it is of the highest

importance, as regards the future welfare and prosperity of our country, that we should stand well with our wealthy and powerful neighbours; and this we may be enabled to do without forfeiting a single particle of our independence or national honour. After spending another day in visiting the several objects of interest in this delightful neighbourhood, and having again luxuriated in walking through Lord Kemare's beautiful demesne, I took my seat, on a fine morning, and proceeded by the long car to Glengariff. I would here strongly recommend the tourist who undergoes the trouble and expense of visiting Killarney by no means to omit paying a visit to Glengariff, as the beauty of the Glen itself will more than repay him for the time spent in the journey; while the sublime objects that present themselves along the new line of road to Kenmare, and thence to Glengariff, are such as cannot be exceeded in any part of these kingdoms. At the risk of being considered presumptuous, I would again advise those who visit Killarney, previously to entering upon the lakes, to ride along this fine mountain road, as well as to pass the Gap of Dunloe, as they will thereby be rendered familiar with the neighbourhood, and, as a matter of course, be enabled with greater advantage to see and appreciate its varied and transcendent beauties. Passing the police barrack and Galway's Cascade, a lake called Rosscormuck presents itself, and soon after a view is obtained of the Brown Valley, through which the river that feeds the renowned lakes may be traced in its meanderings for four or five miles. At a short distance from this place the road divides, one part of it branching off to Derrynane, which is twenty-five miles from this point; and the other leading to Kenmare. Passing thence along the Kenmare line, we obtained a full view of an extensive valley designated Camathrieve, that extends to Kenmare, a distance of about five miles. Plentiful supplies of turf are raised along the space comprised in this valley.

Arriving at Kenmare, a very good town, we stopped for lunch at the Lansdowne Arms, a respectable hotel. There is another hotel of respectable appearance here, called the Wellington. The Protestant church, a neat structure with a handsome steeple, stands on a gentle eminence about half a mile from the town, and is approached by a fine avenue lined with spreading trees. The handsome Catholic church, a fine spacious house of worship, is situated in a commodious enclosure, which fine area, as well as the garden and ornamental grounds that constitute the desirable appendages of the adjoining residence of the parish priest, is enriched with handsome trees. While in Kenmare I visited a commodious school which is in connection with the National Board of Education, where, at this time, there was a large number of scholars; and it affords me much pleasure to say that here, as elsewhere, their conduct was decorous and orderly, and their attention to their studies apparently sedulous. There is a neat Court House here, with an attached bridewell. In the poor-house there were, at this time, about 600 paupers, showing a very great decrease, as at one

period it contained, as I was informed, between two and three thousand. The town consists of a couple of handsome streets, in which there are fresh and well-built houses, and several nice shops. One of these streets leads to the Sound, or river. In the most central part of the town is an extensive area of triangular shape, enclosed within a neat iron railing. This very desirable appendage to a small town is called Kenmare Green; the harbour is open and capacious, with a fine new pier, which extends some three or four hundred feet, and affords ample shelter to the shipping in wild or coarse weather. The bay of Kenmare is formed by an arm of the sea, and is about 25 miles in length from its entrance to its termination at the Sound, or river, and from 5 miles to a mile and a half in its general breadth, with deep water and clear ground in almost every part of it. Vessels of large burthen can consequently find free access to the harbour. Immediately adjoining the new pier, a handsome range of cottage-like houses has been erected for the accommodation of bathers. Lead mines are worked within a short distance of the town, and vessels find employment in carrying away the ore. A very neat suspension bridge spans the Sound or Kenmare river in the vicinity of the town. This light and elegant structure is on the principle of the great Hungerford Bridge in London, and the beautiful bridge of the same character at Hammersmith, on the upper part of the Thames. Many of these valuable improvements, as well as the neat and prepossessing aspect of the town itself, owe their existence to the munificence of the late Most Noble the Marquis of Lansdowne, the owner of the property on which the town stands. Although necessarily an absentee, the noble marquis must have been considered a careful, kind, and indulgent landlord.

Kenmare is a parish, in the barony of Glanerough, about thirty-one miles from Tralee, and 160 from Dublin. After the Restoration, Sir William Petty obtained an extensive grant of land in this district, upon a portion of which he planted a colony of English, in the year 1670, at an expense, as we are told, of £10,000. He also established iron-works and a fishery on an enlarged scale; and contributed considerably to the improvement of this part of the country. The river Blackwater, which flows into the bay of Kenmare, about six miles from the town, is celebrated for its fine salmon fishery, and is likewise rendered remarkable by its rich and romantic scenery. The ruins of the old church are still remaining, and also those of a small chapel supposed to have been built by Sir William Petty, on the establishment of the colony just mentioned. Near the ferry, or Sound, are the remains of a tower called Cromwell's Fort; and at Cahir, in this neighbourhood, was formerly a castle, of which the foundation is the only portion at present visible. There are several raths in the parish; and near the Protestant church are the remains of one of the old Druidical circles, which are to be met with in parts of this country. There are eight fairs held in Kenmare in the year, and a market weekly. Soon after leaving Kenmare on our route to Glengariff, we entered the district of

Shelburne, where I noticed a National school. The eldest son of the Marquis of Lansdowne takes one of his Irish titles from this place, he being designated Earl of Kerry and Shelburne. As I have mentioned in another part of this work, the estates in this county descended to their present owners from their ancestor, the celebrated Raymond le Gros, who, having rendered substantial services to Dermod McCarthy, King of Cork, in suppressing the rebellion raised against him by his son, that prince bestowed upon him a large district in the county of Kerry, which at that period formed part of the kingdom of Cork. Raymond granted this territory to his eldest son, Maurice, who became very powerful, and whose descendants took the name of Fitz-Maurice, which is the family name of the Marquis of Lansdowne; who in later times took the additional name of Petty. At some distance from the last-mentioned school-house we passed a very handsome waterfall; and in the same neighbourhood noticed a Roman Catholic church. Advancing onwards, mountains of bold and elevated character display themselves, one of them, called by the car-driver Vesk, is of a peculiarly harsh and rugged aspect; these are portions of the great Dunkerran range. Valleys, ravines, and glens, of deep and varied features, are also to be seen in this vicinity. Besides the tunnel through which the tourist passes before he arrives at the police barrack on the Kenmare road, there are four others on the line of road leading from Kenmare to Glengariff. One of these tunnels is about 100 feet in length, two of them much shorter; while the fourth is 600 feet long. Within a portion of the latter, a fissure in the side of the rock marks the boundary between the counties of Cork and Kerry. The greater portion of this grand mountain-road was executed under the direction and inspection of James Barry Farrell, Esq. This great work alone would make a character, and a very high one, for any engineer. The county of Wexford may feel justly proud of their surveyor, and may rejoice that they have secured the services of such an officer. Emerging from the latter tunnel, the magnificent range of the Glengariff mountains breaks upon the view, engendering feelings of astonishment and delight. Here mountain rising above mountain realises the graphic description of the poet, who gives expression to his ideas of mountain grandeur and sublimity in the terse and emphatic words, "Alps on Alps arise!". It is said that there are as many as 365 lakes on the summits of these mountains. Ere the feelings of surprise and gratification, arising from the sight of this great mountain range, have subsided, the extensive and beautiful Glen presents itself, and challenges the fullest and most unqualified admiration of the tourist. Here miles of the richest verdant sward, interspersed and studded with innumerable trees of every variety, and of the rarest beauty, reward the lover of fine natural scenery for the trouble and expense he has incurred in his pilgrimage to this lovely place. The Earl of Bantry's charming cottage is situated in the most favoured part of the Glen, and is visited by all who have leisure to remain for an entire day.

Passing along this fine mountain road, Bantry Bay becomes open to the view, with its deep blue water, its picturesque islands, and the handsome conical hills which rise above its shore. This bay, which is of great capacity, may be designated the greatest of island bays; its length being 25 miles, its breadth 6 miles, and its depth 40 fathoms. Arriving at the village of Glengariff, I noticed a small Protestant church of an unusually plain and mean appearance, and a tolerable Roman Catholic chapel. I took quarters for the night at the Royal Hotel, an excellent house, of which Mr. Roche, then owner of the Muckross Hotel, at Killarney, was also the proprietor. This fine new establishment was, at this time, capable of accommodating fifty visitors at one and the same time; and was fitted up and furnished in the style of the Lake and Victoria hotels. It was then about to undergo an alteration and enlargement, on a plan suggested by Sir John Benson, the designer of the Dublin Industrial Exhibition building; and must be, when thus improved, one of the finest houses of the kind in this part of Ireland. The contemplated improvements were expected to be finished by the 1st of the succeeding May, at which time, according to the proprietor's calculation, it would be sufficiently large to render accommodation to 100 guests. At six o'clock, I, with fifteen other gentlemen, partook of an excellent dinner at the *table d'hote*, several private parties dining in other apartments. Having dined and added a few pages to my note-book, which I accomplished about nine o'clock, I looked out, and by the fineness of the evening was induced to take a walk upon the lawn, which the spirited proprietor of this fine hotel had laid out in landscape garden style. The evening was delightfully calm, the light and delicately-sensitive aspen leaf was scarcely disturbed by even a breath of air; while the full harvest moon poured forth a flood of light, so bright, so clear, and so heavenly, as would almost tempt a romantic spirit to wish for the influence of holy Joshua, and thereby endeavour to arrest the glorious luminary in her nocturnal course, lest that the coming day might arrive too soon, and with its ordinary bustle dispel the charm which to him was so delightful. I retired somewhat early, in order that I might be enabled to rise sufficiently timely in the morning, and avail myself of the limited moments at my command to view to more advantage the lovely scenes in this enviable neighbourhood. But whether it was that my imagination was so filled with the fairy visions of the previous evening, or from some morbid state of feeling, I found it impossible to sleep so long or so soundly as was my wont, and I arose with a view of preparing for renewed rest, in the manner recommended by the philosophic Benjamin Franklin, that of bringing the person in contact with the cooling air. It was then two o'clock, and the moon had travelled round to the west, and shone with full splendour upon my room window, sending forth a volume of that soft, mild radiance, which every pure and unsophisticated spirit worships, and which poets, sentimentalists, and lovers, love so well; and tipping with silvery

brightness the conical tops of the neighbouring mountains, and the young and beauteous trees that ornament the lawn in front of the hotel; while its effect upon the sheet of water formed by the estuary which is a continuation of the bay, and upon the artificial basin formed in the centre of the lawn, was really of the most enchanting description. In the fulness of its light, Garnish Island, upon which the fortified tower or battery stands, was rendered quite visible; as were Rabbit Island, Mouse Island, and Brandy Island, as well as several others of a smaller class. The battery consists of a large circular Martello tower on the east, with a square court-like building between it and the western tower, which is not so large in diameter, but much higher than the other. In the morning I arose at five o'clock, and watched the effect of the rising sun upon the mountains, the bay, the islands, and the other interesting objects which I have already mentioned; and was fully confirmed in all my favourable impressions of this magnificent place. The beauties of the Rhine, the Moselle, or even the renowned Lake of Como, could not, I feel persuaded, erase from the mind of the tourist the vivid recollections of these lovely scenes. Oh for the pencil of a Leo Drouyn, of a Salvator Rosa, of a Claude Lorraine; or for the pen of a Byron, a Moore, or a Scott, to portray and depict them! The Sugar-loaf Mountain is part of the extensive range that runs from north to south in this direction; while Lady Bantry's View, as it is called, which stands in front of this range, is a handsome sloping mountain of a brown appearance. The hill vulgarly called Hungry Mountain is not entirely visible as viewed from this place, but can be seen to fine advantage from the line of road leading to Bantry. There are several nice seats and villas in this neighbourhood, the most important of them being Mrs. White's fine castle. Cromwell's Bridge, which crosses the Glengariff river, is romantically situated, and is considered a great curiosity.

Until within the last few days of this my second visit to Killarney, I had but a comparatively limited and imperfect notion of the sublimity and grandeur of the magnificent mountains which adorn this part of my native country. Having seen and admired them, I can now more fully understand and appreciate the feelings which elicited such soul-thrilling bursts of eloquence from the illustrious O'Connell when he was wont to speak of the mountains and valleys of his native land. I am therefore no longer surprised at the patriotic ardour of Wallace, of Tell, and O'Connell, it being but natural that such choice spirits should cherish the purest and most intense love of their fatherland, as on each succeeding day they had an opportunity of witnessing to what an extent the Almighty Creator loved their respective countries, by the sublime manifestations so abundantly evinced in his bountiful gifts. It is also perfectly natural that we should love an object in proportion to its beauty and its worth; and hence it may be inferred that the inhabitants of these sublime regions should, in general, be patriots. This high-toned feeling, I can now believe, has stimulated the Circas-

sians in their persevering resistance to the aggressive tyranny of modern Russia. The same feeling, no doubt, has enabled the Swiss to successfully resist the power of Austria; and history informs us how bravely the Scotch for centuries struggled against the domination of England. A feeling as high and as holy as any of these actuated the mountain-bred O'Connell in his superhuman and successful efforts to sever the fetters by which himself and his co-religionists were bound.

After breakfast on this morning, and certainly not without regret, I took my departure for Bandon by the day-coach. The line of road leading from Glengariff to Bantry winds round a considerable portion of the bay, so that we had an excellent opportunity of viewing to advantage the several interesting objects by which it is distinguished, and, amongst others, Whiddy Island, on three different parts of which are strong batteries. We had also an ample view of the ruin of a fine old castle, which stands on that part of the island in front of which the French fleet anchored when they visited this country in a hostile character. Near the town of Bantry I noticed a handsome and picturesque old place called Dunnameesk, where there are a bridge, a pretty waterfall, large flour-mills, and the remains of an ancient monastery. Bantry, a good small town, is situated at the northern extremity of the bay, and in a valley environed by hills. On the bank of the river, at the west end of the town, appears the Protestant church, a handsome structure in the Early English style of architecture, ornamented with a lofty tower; while on an elevated site at its eastern extremity stands the neat Catholic church, a handsome cruciform edifice, erected several years since, at an expense of £2,500. Here, also, is a nice Sessions House, with an ornamental cornice and pediment supported by substantial pilasters; in the rear of which is a convenient bridewell. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists in the town, and a couple of schools, one of which, built by a bequest of the Rev. D. Crowley, for many years the parish priest, is now in connection with the National Board of Education. The union poor-house was at this time showing a gratifying decrease in the number of its inmates, there being then but 1,000 paupers within it, whereas, as I was informed, it at one period afforded shelter to three or four times that number. There are two comfortable hotels in the town, one of them called the Bantry Arms, in front of which is an extensive and well laid out market square, where on Saturday the market is held. There are seven fairs in the year. Numbers of the inhabitants are engaged in the fishing trade, and consequently fish is abundant and cheap. This town, which was anciently called Kilgoban, from St. Goban, its original founder and patron, is situated in the parish of Kilmacamogue, barony of Bantry and county of Cork, about forty-eight miles from Cork city, and 174 from Dublin. Sea Court, the beautiful residence of the Earl of Bantry, is finely situated on a gentle eminence at a short distance from the town, and commands a splendid view of the bay and harbour, together with the lofty mountains in the neighbourhood of Glengariff,

and Whiddy Island, with its ancient castellated and picturesque ruin, which presents an interesting appearance as viewed from this fine demesne.

Proceeding from Bantry to Bandon, the tourist will pass through the town of Dunmanway, a good town of its class, in which are a Protestant and Catholic church, a Wesleyan Methodist place of worship, and an exceedingly nice new Model School under the National Board of Education. Arriving at Bandon, the visitor will notice several objects worthy of his attention, including the new and beautiful Protestant church; the Catholic church, which is of long standing, and capable of accommodating a large congregation; the convent of the Nuns of the Presentation order; the Presbyterian and Wesleyan Methodist places of worship, and also several schools.

The line of country between Bandon and Cork does not abound in such traits as render it a matter of much moment that the traveller, who is now hurried along by the intervening line of railway, is precluded from catching objects of interest so as to be enabled to describe them with faithfulness and accuracy. Approaching Cork, however, interesting features become very numerous, the environs of this important city being eminently beautiful. Having in my former publication ventured on a description of this fine place, as well as some of the neighbouring towns, including Mallow, with its renowned spas, and Fermoy, with its extensive military barracks, I shall not on this occasion indulge my own wishes by entering into a lengthened detail regarding it. Besides, were it my bent to do so, the space now at my command, owing to the already too largely increased number of my pages, warns me of the inexpediency of gratifying my own predilections.

CHAPTER XXIII.

CORK, YOUGHAL, AND DUNGARVAN.

Cork must be considered a very important city, whether as regards its extensive trade, the public spirit of its merchants and citizens in general, or from its being the metropolis of Munster, the richest and most extensive of the provinces, and the capital of what may be considered the Yorkshire of Ireland. The principal portion of the city may be called an island, and consequently there are several bridges crossing the river that surrounds it. From St. Patrick's Bridge, a handsome structure which spans the river on the north side of the city, the principal, or Patrick's Street, extends to the Grand Parade, a distance of about half a mile; thence the Grand Parade, extending in a southerly direction to where it meets the South Mall, is a noble street, and is nearly equalled by the Mall itself. On the south-western angle formed by the Grand Parade and the South Mall, stands a very beautiful equestrian statue of George II. The military barracks, which are of considerable extent, constitute a very prominent and imposing feature, as they are built on the most elevated part of the city. The great tunnel of the railway, which passes from the Glanmire Road under the barracks, and under a great portion of the city, to the station at Blackpool, was at this time in a forward state. Steamboats of very neat character are constantly plying between Cork and Queenstown. They start every hour during the day, and are, generally speaking, filled with passengers, most of whom are composed of the fashionable and wealthy citizens, and tourists, who during the summer and autumn season enjoy the luxury of sojourning at Passage, Monkstown, and Queenstown. The railway carriages, which are constantly running between Cork and Passage, also derive considerable profits from persons of the same class, many of whom, being engaged in business, proceed by these conveyances each evening to their respective lodges, and return to the city after breakfast in the morning.

The river Lee, so important a feature in Cork and its neighbourhood, has its source on the confines of Kerry, in a lake called Gougane-Barra, which is environed by wild and rocky mountains. After a course of some thirty miles in an eastwardly direction it reaches Cork, through which it flows in two channels, and becomes navigable for vessels of considerable burthen on meeting the tide. At some distance

below Cork it expands into a broad estuary, in which are several islands, on the largest and most considerable of which stands the modern and every-day-increasing Queenstown. The course of this river for a considerable distance is very irregular, but it flows between hills which exhibit much variety. Its scenery, however, is greatly inferior in picturesque luxuriance to that of the Blackwater; nevertheless, at Queenstown and below Cork it rivals the most celebrated of our native rivers in the winding variety of its channel and the cultivated richness of its shores. The passage from Cork to Queenstown by the steamer is a really delightful run, the sides of the river presenting continuous scenes of the richest beauty. It would be at once vain and idle to attempt a description of the multifarious and diversified objects which present themselves, their number and magnificence being such as to chain down the imagination, as it were, by a magic spell. There are, however, some prominent features that cannot be passed over, and which demand the particular attention of the tourist, such, for instance, as Spike Island, on which has been long since erected an extensive depôt for convicts; Hawlbowline, with its immense stores; Rock Island; the powder magazine, the lighthouse, and Camden and Carlisle Forts.

Queenstown has been long famed for the salubrity of its air, and consequently has been resorted to by persons showing premonitory symptoms of consumption. Situated as it is on the side of a hill, and possessing a southern aspect, as well as being protected from the influence of the cold north winds, there can be no doubt that persons residing here would find comparative shelter and exemption from the oft-recurring changes of our varying climate, and, to some extent, would derive unquestionable benefit from making it their residence. While sailing down the Lee I was greatly struck with a very beautiful and palace-like mansion, that stands on the Passage or Monkstown side of the river, which, upon inquiry, I found was an Ursuline convent. This, indeed, is an establishment every way worthy of the zeal, devotedness, and piety of the order to which it belongs. The Protestant church of Queenstown, a very neat building, had at this time recently undergone extensive alteration and repair. The Catholic church, which is situated on a considerable elevation, presents a remarkably rich and striking appearance, but its internal beauty is not quite in keeping with its exterior; it must, however, be considered a good house of worship. The houses and shops in this favoured and fashionable town are such as might be expected in a place so contiguous to Cork, which is, indeed, a city where elegance and refinement abound.

Returning in the evening, the lighthouse of Black Rock displays its guiding beacon, under which the steamer closely passes; while a little farther on the lamps that extend for the distance of a mile along the Glanmire side of the river present a splendid appearance. In addition to these, the lights from the windows of the several villas

and cottages on the heights above form a continuous line of unbroken illumination.

In the autumn of 1853 I paid my second visit to this, the second city of my native country, and felt much gratification in witnessing the decided improvements which, in many respects, had taken place within the intervening three years. Not only had several new and handsome objects in the way of public buildings been erected, but even the houses of business, and shops in general, presented an improved appearance, and afforded unmistakable evidence of increasing prosperity. Manifestations of this agreeable state of things were quite perceptible in many parts of the city, especially along the leading and principal streets, including Patrick Street, the Grand Parade, and the Mall. On my way to the renowned Blarney, where I had the pleasure of viewing the celebrated castle, and the interesting grounds appertaining to it, I was much struck with the new and important buildings which are to be seen in the western part of the city. The first of these which arrested my attention was the Queen's College, that stands on an eminence south of the river Lee; and which, from its richness and beauty, at once attracts the notice and admiration of the visitor. The building is of quadrangular shape, its principal front facing the north, and displaying a remarkably grand and beautiful appearance. In the centre of this front rises a magnificent embattled tower, from the western angle of which springs a neat and ornamental turret surmounted by a weather-gauge. East of the tower are situated the lecture and examination halls of the college, both light and elegant structures of the pointed Gothic style of architecture. In this neighbourhood is situated a nunnery, a new and very beautiful building in the Elizabethan style. On the opposite or northern side of the river may be seen another new and handsome building, which is a chapel for the brethren of the community of St. Vincent de Paul.

The county jail is situated immediately west of the Queen's College, and is entered beneath a handsome portico formed by four Doric columns. A rich polygonal tower rises in the centre of the prison, the summit of which is decorated with an ornamental balustrade. The city jail is favourably situated on the northern side of the river, in the vicinity of Sunday Well. It is a much older building than the county prison, and stands on the side of a hill in a healthful locality. The agreeable and popular walk, familiarly called the Dyke, extends for nearly a mile in length along the valley of the Lee. It is very nicely kept, and constantly gravelled, while the overhanging trees that grow upon its borders render it a delightful promenade in the summer season. In this neighbourhood public baths have been established, and are amply supplied with water from the clear river which runs beside them. On this line of road also may be seen the new Lunatic Asylum, a magnificent building consisting of a centre and two wings, which are connected by low corridors. The centre and flanking wings are of equal dimensions;

the only difference between them being that in each wing the entrance is by a single door; while in the centre the entrance is by one of twofold character, and the workmanship of more elaborate finish. This splendid institution is in the Early English or Saxon style of architecture, and greatly resembles the fine building erected for the same benevolent purpose, which I have noticed in my observations on Killarney. There is a very pretty little chapel for Roman Catholic worship on the south side of the institution, and an equally neat one on the northern side for Protestant service, both being exclusively for the use of the inmates of the asylum. Several handsome seats and elegant villas appear in this neighbourhood, and along the line extending to Lee Mount. I was greatly pleased with my visit to the new and handsome cemetery, formerly known as the Botanic Gardens, which is situated in the southern suburbs, about a mile from the centre of the city. This neat and ornamental repository for the dead was founded by the celebrated philanthropist, the late Very Rev. Theobald Mathew, for the interment of the citizens without religious distinction. It comprises about six acres, and is well cared for, and finely preserved. Its handsome and intersecting walks, with the intermediate spaces, are planted and ornamented with the rarest trees, shrubs, and flowers, which constitute it an appropriate specimen of the taste and refinement of the citizens of Cork.

The advancing civilisation of the age is pleasingly exemplified in the provident care which is bestowed upon the suffering members of the community—the lunatic poor; and in the improved and appropriate cemeteries which are being provided for the repose of the ashes of the dead. That of which I am now speaking contains some very fine monuments, one of them, which is of beautiful design, being to the memory of Mr. O'Connor, a highly-esteemed citizen. Upon the summit of this monument appears a fine marble figure of an angel, represented in a mournful attitude, reclining on a rich sarcophagus. This was the first, and probably one of the happiest, efforts of the late celebrated sculptor, Hogan, who was a native of Cork. The chiseling is of the most delicate and masterly description. A very beautiful little chapel of the sharpest pointed Gothic character forms a striking monument to the memory of a very distinguished citizen, Mr. Thomas Lyons. In the interior, an elegant marble slab forms the unique altar-table, with a characteristic cross wrought upon its front, and a suitable inscription underneath. Another, of singular delicacy and beauty, has been erected to the memory of a young lady, Miss Ellen O'Connor; this, which is of white marble, is also the maiden effort of a young man, a native of the city. Many others of equal beauty are to be seen in this interesting place, furnishing the fullest attestation of the affection of the living and the virtue and worth of the dead. While here my attention was drawn to a handsome tomb, which is situated in the most ornamental part of the cemetery, where

the remains of a young and beautiful lady repose. The circumstances connected with her decease, as detailed by the sexton, were of the most remarkable and affecting character, and convey a melancholy, and at the same time, a useful warning. According to his account, this lady, accompanied by her husband, an officer who was stationed with his regiment in Cork, paid a visit to the cemetery, and walked through its several avenues, viewing with apparently deep interest its numerous mementoes. Before her departure she pointed out to her husband the spot where she now lies interred, and said, in a marked and significant manner, that if she should die in this part of the world, she would wish, above all places, to be buried there. Alas! but too soon was her melancholy wish complied with, and her intuitive anticipation realised; for within one little week from the time she made her strange and prophetic request she was laid in the last sad home of her choice. Offering to her memory the tribute of a sigh, and taking a view of the inclosed space reserved as a resting place for the remains of the enlightened and benevolent founder, Father Mathew, which, some time since, were deposited within it, I took my leave of this second Glasnevin, or Pére la Chaise, impressed with mingled feelings of gratification and awe. In this vicinity, the fine seat of Mr. Lane, which is situated on the side of a richly-planted hill, can be seen to great advantage. The union workhouse is likewise situated in this section of the city, and is a very extensive pile of buildings. A portion of it was burnt down in the year 1850, and a part of the military barracks was converted into an auxiliary poor-house to supply the want of accommodation occasioned thereby. This portion has been since rebuilt, and presents a fresh and comparatively rich appearance. Like most of the institutions of a similar character in the south of Ireland, a considerable decrease had taken place in the number of the inmates. On an eminence south of the western road, and at a short distance from the Queen's College, stands St. Finbarr's Church, a plain and ancient building, with a hexagon spire constructed of plain stone, with granite quoins. A new cathedral is now (the latter end of the year 1862) about to be erected on the site of this ancient church, the estimated cost of which is £15,000. The palace of the Protestant Lord Bishop is situated near this church. St. Peter's Church, situated in the north main street, is an old building with a handsome octagon tower, from which rises a light and beautiful spire surmounted by a cock. Upper Shandon Church is perhaps the best Church of England house of worship in the city, as well as being the most conspicuous. It is decorated with a handsome tower and steeple, with a crowning cupola supporting a ball, from which springs a weather-gauge, with a fish for an index. The ancient church of St. Nicholas, however, is considered by the best judges the most interesting of the Protestant churches.

The Catholic churches, being for the most part modern buildings,

are, taking them in general, far more striking and beautiful than those of the Establishment; making up in the grandeur and beauty of their style for what they lack in point of antiquity and long standing. The North Church, or Catholic cathedral, is situated at a short distance from Shandon Protestant church, and was at this time undergoing considerable improvement and enlargement, including an elegant ornamental tower. The style and grandeur of these additions, it was thought by competent judges, would, at no very distant day, superinduce the rebuilding of the remainder of the church. The interior of this church is very beautiful, the groinings of the ceilings, and the arches that divide the nave from the aisles, being of the richest description. The arches spring from elegant clustered columns, with splendid capitals, and the altar is exceedingly grand and imposing. The residence of the bishop, the Right Rev. Dr. Delany, is situated conveniently near the church. His lordship has a summer residence at Black Rock, in the neighbourhood of the fine Ursuline convent already alluded to. St. Mary's Church, which belongs to the Friars of the order of St. Dominic, is situated on the North Mall, and is a fine structure in the Grecian style of architecture, based on a platform which is approached by a dozen steps of cut stone. The entire front is composed of pure granite. The portico was not at this time completed, but the massive bases of the columns, six in number, had been laid. The interior presents a very fine appearance. In the rear of the church is situated the convent of the pious brotherhood, of whom the Right Rev. Dr. Leahy, Bishop of Dromore, was at this time the prior. It is a large and fine building in the Romanesque style of architecture, composed of a rich purple stone, with quoins of pure white granite. It is intended as a seminary for graduates of the order, as well as for the residence of the brethren who are located in this city. A very striking and beautiful tower rises above the centre of the building, in which hangs a bell of a ton weight. This very interesting structure, which stands on a moderate elevation, is both a conspicuous and ornamental feature, and can be seen from most parts of the city. St. Patrick's Church, situated on the North Mall, at some distance below St. Patrick's Bridge, is an exceedingly beautiful edifice, with a highly enriched front, and uncommonly fine steeple ornamented with turreted decorations of a peculiarly neat and remarkable character. This church, like that of St. Mary's, is based on a platform which is approached by ten or eleven steps of cut granite. It is of cruciform construction, with a fine portico formed by eight beautiful columns of the Corinthian order, with rich capitals, and four pilasters of the same order; the columns supporting a handsome pediment. The style of the internal decoration and general arrangement, although rich, is rather neat than gorgeous. The Mathew Church, so called after its founder, the illustrious apostle of temperance, is a building of densely massive character, the columns and pilasters harmonising in style with the general design of the church. There are three entrances

in the western end, beneath elliptic Gothic arches, with a tall and slender window, of corresponding style, above each of them. There are seven windows of the Gothic style called Middle Point in each side of the church; and a large and beautiful one of the same character in the east or chancel end of the nave. This is called the "O'Connell window," and is of fine stained glass. Why it bears the name of Ireland's departed Liberator arises from the circumstance of the local fund which was subscribed towards his monument having been appropriated to the adornment of the church, and the whole proceeds expended on this magnificent window. The walls are about 50 feet in height to the summit of the wall-plate, with a massive buttress on the outside of each angle, and one of smaller dimensions between each of the windows on both sides. The interior is commodious, and the arrangement, whereby accommodation is afforded to a large congregation, excellent. The aisles are divided from the nave by clustered columns composed of wood, which support eight light arches on each side. The church was not at this time entirely finished, although as regards utility its principal object was attained. The original design has, in some measure, been departed from, as it was considered too costly for the funds at the command of the committee. On the whole, however, it must be considered a magnificent church, and reflects no small degree of credit on those who co-operated with its late lamented, zealous, and pious founder. The South Church is a substantial building of long standing and of a severe style, composed of rubble masonry. Compared with the Catholic churches already mentioned, it may be considered as almost entirely destitute of ornament. In the neighbourhood of Summer Hill I noticed a Scotch church, a fine plain building. Besides these, there are the chapels of the Franciscan and Augustinian Friars, and also that of the Wesleyan Methodists.

In the vicinity of South Summer Hill is an extensive building, which is an asylum for the shelter and support of the industrious blind. Here also is situated the South Infirmary; there is a similar institution in the north section of the city. The Cork Institute is a fine building, and is composed of the same description of reddish or purple stone which I have already mentioned when speaking of the convent of the Dominican Fathers; with quoins also of rich white granite. It is situated on the side of the river, nearly opposite this convent, from which it can be seen to great advantage. The upper part of the building is appropriated to a school of design, in which are to be seen some very fine casts. Adjoining this building and in connection with it a new addition was at this time being erected, which was intended for an Athenæum, in which were to be deposited several of the articles of *vertu* remaining in the possession of the Exhibition Committee of 1852. The Court House, a very fine and extensive building in the Grecian style of architecture, displays a rich façade ornamented with columns and pilasters, which is approached by

several steps of cut stone. In it are contained, not only all the offices of a public nature for the county, but also those of the same kind for the city. The corn-market is of considerable extent, comprising an enclosed area of some six or seven acres. It was on a part of this enclosure that the Cork Exhibition was held. Its fine Exchange is a light and handsome building, consisting of a centre and two corresponding wings, the centre being surmounted by a neat tower and cupola, from which springs an ornamental weather-gauge. The tower contains a fine clock, which displays a rich dial in each of its four sides. The butter-market is at once commodious and ornamental, and in all respects worthy of a city so celebrated for the superiority of this important article of merchandise. A building of circular form, about 60 feet in diameter, has been erected immediately adjoining the weigh-house, where the new firkins used in the trade are inspected, and when found in accordance with the regular standard, whether as regards the size or quality of the wood, are branded; none but those so verified will be allowed to be presented for sale in the market. The several meat-markets are in keeping with the prosperity and civilisation of the city, and can be looked upon with pleasure by the intelligent visitor. The Custom House, although of considerable extent, is of plain appearance, and, from the situation being low, is to a certain extent obscure and unpretending. The station-house of the Cork and Bandon railway is a light and elegant building; that of the Passage line, which is situated at a short distance from it, is neither so large nor so nicely finished. The Bank of Ireland, with its elaborately ornamented front, is a handsome building; the Provincial and National Banks are also good houses, but are not so large nor so highly finished as their commercial rival. The savings-bank, a very nice building; the County Club, a handsome structure, and the City Club, are excellent houses. There are several hotels in the city, the principal of which is the Imperial. This fine establishment is fully as large as Cruise's Hotel at Limerick, but does not show to such advantage; it is capable of rendering accommodation to 150 visitors at one and the same time. On this occasion I looked into Fitzgibbon's monster establishment, and felt some surprise on perceiving that it had been considerably enlarged since I visited it three years before. Two hundred young men were at this time engaged in attending to the visitors and customers who resort to the wholesale and retail departments; and 2,000 hands were constantly employed in manufacturing some of the articles required, such as shirts, lace, bonnets, and other commodities; 1,000 young women were engaged in the shirt-making line alone. Almost every description of article that can well be imagined may be had here, including hardware, china, books, &c. The late lamented proprietor, who, previously to his decease, filled the important office of mayor of the city, very kindly accompanied me through the whole concerns. I likewise visited some of the distilleries and breweries in the city,

and was a good deal struck with the extensive concerns of Messrs. Beamish and Crawford, a long-established and very important emporium. On my last visit to Cork, during the autumn of 1861, I looked into this establishment and found great bustle and activity prevailing, which was occasioned by the increased demand for the produce of the brewery, that, since the rise in the duty upon whisky, is being more generally consumed.

On Sunday, the 18th of September, 1853, I enjoyed a very rich treat while proceeding by the steamer down the Lee to Queenstown, noticing again the several interesting objects which present themselves on both sides of the river, including the Black Rock Lighthouse, which stands upon a portion of the site of the ancient castle of that place, part of the ruins of which are still remaining. On this occasion, large numbers of the citizens, and not a few strangers, were hastening to Queenstown, being attracted by Her Majesty's great fleet, then at anchor in the magnificent harbour. The day was beautifully fine, and on the arrival of the steamboat at Queenstown, she, for the gratification of the passengers, sailed round the ships. It was a really grand sight to see so many vessels of war, some of them the most powerful in the world; the fleet consisting of seventeen sail. After rounding the ships, the passengers were landed at Queenstown, when I, accompanied by some other gentlemen, at once proceeded by a small boat, and with them was so fortunate as to be admitted on board the *Wellington*, the largest ship of war then afloat. We were astonished at her vast proportions, as well as at the great number of seamen and marines on board of her. It was exceedingly pleasing to witness the great kindness with which all on board behaved to the numerous visitors who were eagerly flocking to gratify their curiosity in beholding this great vessel. The appearance of this truly magnificent ship upon the water, notwithstanding her great size, was comparatively light and graceful. She has a large and finely-carved figure of the Great Duke at her stem, which is an admirable likeness of the renowned and illustrious soldier; and two galleries at her stern, which present a becoming appearance. The *Wellington* and the *Queen* seemed to attract the attention of the largest numbers; but the whole of the ships, although it was Sunday, admitted on board of them all who applied up to six o'clock in the evening. The *Queen* is a very beautiful ship, with an elegant figure of her gracious Majesty, wearing the diadem, on her stem, and a single gallery at her stern. Many of the ships could be at once recognised by the characteristic figures of those from whom they derive their names; such, for instance, as the *Regent*, which has at her stem an admirable likeness of George IV., and the *Agamemnon*, which displays what may be supposed to be a striking figure of that renowned and potent Homeric warrior. The day was exceedingly favourable for the indulgence of popular curiosity, as not a ripple disturbed the glossy surface of the harbour.

On my return from the *Wellington*, I enjoyed a rich treat in walking through the streets and along the heights of Queenstown; and never, I feel assured, did this beautiful little town present a gayer or happier appearance. Groups of the officers of the fleet were to be met in every part of the town, while the windows and the leading streets were abundantly graced with beautiful females, many of whom seemed nothing loth to bestow looks, and even smiles of approbation, on the brave and hardy sons of the ocean, as they appeared in their rich uniforms of blue and gold. Those of subordinate rank had their admirers also, and I doubt not that many of these gallant defenders of their country inflicted deeper wounds on the hearts of our pure and charming countrywomen than they had for some time previously been called upon to make on the heads of daring and insolent foes. All, therefore, was cheerfulness and good-humour, and many of the vendors of the good things of this world had ample cause to bless, what to them was a God-send, the hour that the fleet arrived in their harbour; for I believe it to be an admitted fact that our brave sailors are as lavish of their money as they are of their blood.

From the heights in the rear of the town I obtained admirable views of many of the interesting objects that abound in this favoured locality, which, as the evening sun shone out with uninterrupted brilliancy, not a single cloud appearing in the heavens, showed to the greatest possible advantage. Under such favourable circumstances, the entrance to the harbour was fully open to observation, while Carlisle Fort on the east, and Camden Fort on the west, were rendered equally distinct, as were the several islands in the harbour. The ships that composed the fleet, which were moored in the form of an extended crescent, had a truly magnificent appearance, the *Wellington* being nearest to the harbour's mouth, and the *Terrible* the closest to the town; while the numerous merchant vessels, both at Queenstown and Passage, bedecked in their gayest colours, gave additional importance and interest to the scene. The first-class ships, with their three tiers of guns, the ports being distinguished by the protruding muzzles of the cannon appearing between the intersecting lines of white, had a very imposing look; while the frigates, with their uniformly dark sides, had a more insidious, though less formidable appearance. Queenstown had greatly improved since my former visit, and is now a fine fashionable place. A new pier was at this time about to be erected here for the safety and convenience of trading vessels. On a height west of the town is a nice little chapel belonging to the convent of the Sisters of Mercy, some years since established here. In almost all the towns which I have visited in Leinster and Munster, convents of this devoted and charitable order are to be seen, and the greatest benefit conferred thereby upon the sick poor and the female children of the humbler class. The appearance of the Lee on our return to Cork upon this truly interesting occasion was delightful in the extreme. The continuous passing

of the steamboats, and the frequent running of the trains on the Passage line of railway, gave an air of great bustle and excitement to the scene. Several foreign seamen, some of them Greeks, whose ships were lying at Passage, and who were attired in the various costumes of their respective countries, intermingled with the parties on board the steamboats; and, by their peculiar and novel appearance, imparted such a degree of diversity as could not fail to be pleasing and agreeable to the beholder.

On this evening the setting sun left behind it such a halo and effulgence as can be rarely witnessed in our climate; while the moon, which was at its full, arose soon after, and, as it appeared above the Black Rock Lighthouse, added a new, a glorious, and varied enchantment to the scene. Byron's celebrated lines commencing with

"The sun set, and up rose the yellow moon,"

with other portions of the stanza, which speak of

"The silver light which, hallowing tree and tower,
Shed beauty and deep softness o'er the whole,"

forcibly occurred to my recollection at the moment. Feelings of enthusiasm were called up in the mind of even the dullest person on the river by these united and almost peerless beauties, and many of the citizens declared that they had never, before that hour, seen their magnificent river appear to such advantage. I never witnessed a moonlight scene to equal this, save that which I experienced a couple of evenings before at Glengariff.

Having been occupied for a portion of the next morning in paying some private visits and making preparations for my departure, I took my seat at four o'clock for Youghal, and carried with me feelings of admiration and respect for the self-relying and energetic citizens of this important and prosperous place. I shall long dwell in pleased remembrance on Cork, Queenstown, and their enviable environs. I need scarcely say that it was with the most sincere regret I read an account of the ravages occasioned by the subsequent floods in this the principal city in the south of Ireland; when the turgid river, overflowing its natural boundaries, swept, in its unrestricted career, through the fine streets and thoroughfares along which I had so lately passed indulging feelings of pleasure and gratification. I little thought, as I viewed with admiration the fine structure called St. Patrick's Bridge, that I should so soon hear of its partial demolition, and thus be reminded that the works of man partake of man's weakness and instability, who, alas! is but the mere creature of an hour, and whom the flowing river or the passing breeze may, instantly, be rendered instrumental in summoning to his last dread account. From my limited space I am reluctantly prevented from entering on a detail of the early reminiscences connected with this important city, which, according to the most authentic accounts, was built on a lime-

stone rock, on the margin of the south branch of the river, and which grew up round the cathedral founded by St. Barr, or Finbarr, who is said to have been the preceptor of St. Nessan; this latter saint, agreeably to the "Annals of the Four Masters," having died in the year 551. That part, however, which, from a very early period, has been more especially considered as the city was erected by the Ostmen or Danes, on the island formed by the Lee, who ultimately settled here in 1020. On the landing of Henry II., in the year 1172, MacCarthy, the king of this district, was the first of the Irish princes or chieftains who acknowledged his sovereignty. The first charter of incorporation, granted to Cork was that of King John, who, as Earl of Moreton, acted as the viceroy of his father.

On my last visit to Cork, which was made in the early part of the month of November, 1861, I found, with much pleasure, that the city was showing unmistakable symptoms of a gradually rising prosperity. These indications were to be found in the general character and appearance of the houses and shops, and the bustle and activity which were quite apparent at the new railway station on the lower Glanmire road, as well as at the steam-ship office, a new and handsome building with an ornamental front, situated in the same locality. Here, under the direction of the energetic and enterprising Mr. Pike, the greatest activity prevailed, and afforded the most decided evidence of a progressive and well-organised system of sound and healthy commerce.

Among the new and ornamental public buildings which had sprung into existence since my former visit, is an exceedingly beautiful Presbyterian church, that has been erected on the side of an elevated range, at a short distance west of the fine Roman Catholic church of St. Patrick, on the lower Glanmire road. This nice house of worship is a fine cruciform structure in the enriched Gothic style of architecture, with a handsome tower, which, like the body of the building, being of the finest reticulated masonry, appears, with its double buttresses and graceful spire, a very striking and ornamental feature. There is a neat apse at the chancel end of the church, and an uncommonly beautiful six-light window, with a fine traceried head, in the end of each transept. The heads of the other windows, which are of three lights, are likewise enriched with varied tracery. This is the most perfect church of the sect to which it belongs that I have seen. On the southern side of the South Mall, at a short distance from the equestrian statue before mentioned, has been lately erected what may be called a public building, which is a Protestant Hall, the entrance to which is so confined, and the view in consequence thereof so restricted, that the building cannot be seen from the street. When entered, however, it presents an imposing appearance, the hall or lecture-room being a commodious chamber 95 feet in length, by 45 in breadth, and 36 in height; it is lighted by large round-headed windows. On one side of the lecture-hall is a ladies' cloak-room, and on the other a

retiring and smoking-room for gentlemen. As the committee of management purpose to let the hall for public banquets, and such-like reunions, a commodious kitchen has been fitted up, and all the apparatus essential for preparing dinners on a large scale provided. In the centre of the Grand Parade, facing George's Street and Tuckey Street, is a splendid drinking fountain, based on a fine circular stone platform. This useful and ornamental desideratum, which in style and appearance resembles the magnificent fountains at Charing Cross in London, was presented to the citizens in 1860, by Walter Berwick, Esq., Judge of the Bankrupt and Insolvent Court, and for many years Chairman of the Quarter Sessions Court of the county, as a testimonial of respect for the people with whom he was so long officially connected. It was designed by Sir John Benson, and is constructed of fine granite.

The splendid new bridge erected to replace the fine structure called Patrick's Bridge, that was destroyed by a great flood some years ago, which at this time was about to be opened for traffic, is a magnificent building, and will reflect the highest credit on the architect, and all who were connected with its erection.

The grand portico of St. Mary's, the church of the Dominican Fathers, was being erected at this time. It is formed by six large fluted columns of the Ionic order in the front, with one of the same style and character on each side, upon which rest the entablature and crowning pediment. This fine adjunct, when finished, will add considerable dignity to the church, and will present a noble appearance when viewed from the vicinity of the Athenæum on the opposite side of the river. The last-mentioned building which is now finished, is a large oblong structure, with a semicircular projection on each extremity. The side which fronts the river displays five square windows with architrave mouldings between ornamental pilasters, above which extends a handsome balustrade, the entire building being surrounded by a rich final cornice. It is rather a commodious than a handsome building, and is generally appropriated to public uses. Bell's circus was held within it at this time. The improvements which were being made on the stately Catholic cathedral on the eminence at Shandon, when I paid my former visit, have been for some time entirely finished, with the exception of the contemplated spire; and the whole building presents a very rich and striking appearance. The tower, which, like the other parts of the building, is constructed of a rich purple or blood-coloured stone, with granite quoins, is of considerable elevation, its crocketed pinnacles, of pure white granite, rising to a height of 173 feet.

The splendid Catholic Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, now being erected on a site at the north side of the upper end of Patrick Street, will be, when finished, the finest ecclesiastical building in the city. Its style belongs to the enriched Gothic, and its dimensions are as follows: length 150 feet, breadth 86 feet in the clear, with north and south

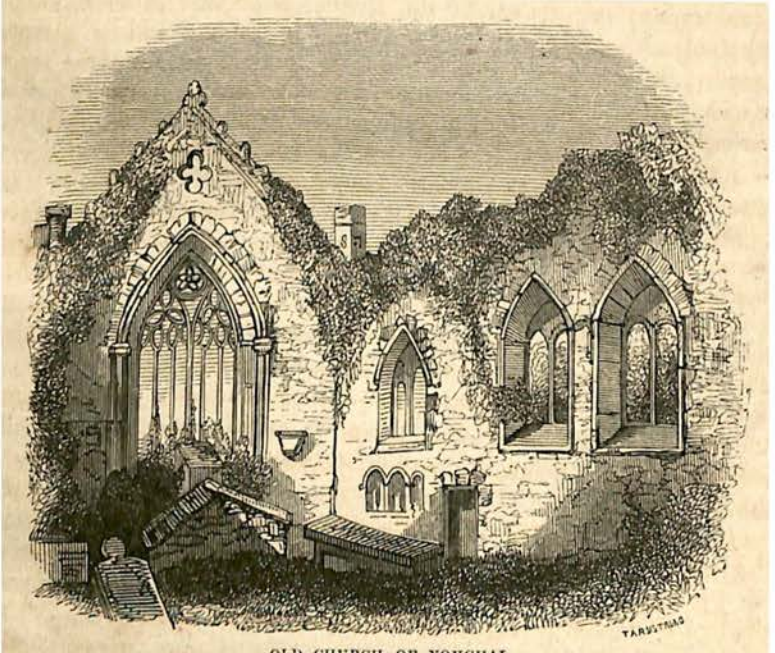
transepts; the breadth of the nave being 35 feet, and the height to the apex of the roof 89 feet. The height of the tower and spire will be 260 feet, and the great west window, which stands above the deeply-moulded and richly ornamented arched door, is of ten lights. The clerestory windows, by which the church will be principally lighted, are of four lights and three mullions. The columns which divide the nave from the aisles are of the fine red Cork marble, while the arches springing from their rich capitals, as well as the inside of the walls in general, will be of Caen stone, and the tracery of Portland stone. The two beautiful arches formed in each aisle at the intersection of the transepts are supported in the centre by a splendid column of the green Galway marble; while those which appear at the intersection on the chancel side are similarly supported by elegant columns of white marble. The lofty roof is to be entirely open. Mr. Pugin, son to the celebrated restorer of the pure Gothic style of architecture in these countries, is the architect of this grand church, which will probably cost £18,000. The backward state of the works when I paid my visit, the clerestory not having reached its full height, rendered it impossible for a casual observer to be enabled to convey anything like an accurate description of what this elegant church may be supposed to present when brought to maturity. The works of the railway from Cork to Youghal were steadily progressing, and the whole of the line nearly open for traffic.

Approaching the town of Youghal, a fine view of the sea can be obtained, and also a view of Capell Island, on the centre of which stands a tower, originally intended for a lighthouse, but which, after having been partly built, was condemned and abandoned. Vessels can pass between this island and the point or bluff called Knockadoon, but in doing so it requires much caution, as there are sunken rocks in the centre of the passage. The entrance to the harbour is apparently free and open, but the water is bad, except close to the headland on the eastern side. This ancient town is situated on the western bank of the Blackwater, which, after flowing beneath the extensive wooden bridge, forms the capacious harbour, and is sheltered on the west by a sloping elevation, on the sides of which stand many handsome houses, and also the Protestant and Catholic churches. Like most of the old towns of the same class in Ireland, it may be said to consist of one long and principal street, with others of inferior character diverging from it. The streets in general are narrow, and remind the traveller of the streets of Wexford, which in this respect they greatly resemble. Although a sea-port, it is by no means a flourishing town, as vessels of comparatively small burthen only can enter the harbour at ordinary times of tide; at spring tides, however, it is accessible to ships of 500 tons. The strand in the neighbourhood of the town affords excellent bathing accommodation, it being extensively covered with fine white sand, and consequently is much resorted to for that healthful and agreeable purpose in the summer

season. The best and most modern houses are those which are situated at the south entrance of the town, and the best streets, Catherine Street, and the Mall. Nelson Place, where there are a few good houses, is situated at the west side of the town. On a massive arch that divides the north and south main streets, and which is called by the inhabitants the Clock Gate, stands a neat and peculiar building, of turreted character, of four distinct stories, with a small octagon tower surmounted by a cupola rising from its summit. The town clock, which is placed in the tower, presents a handsome dial to each street. This structure was formerly the borough prison, but at present it is merely used as a place of temporary confinement for riotous and disorderly persons. In the north main street are the remains of an ancient building called Tynt's Castle, a structure pretty much in the style of the defensive buildings erected in the reign of Elizabeth. On one of the quays, which is tolerably capacious, a commodious market-square has been laid out, fronting which is the Court House, a moderately sized and handsome building constructed of a greenish coloured stone, with quoins and window edgings of nice granite. On the south quay is situated a fine square building called the Mall House, in which are the offices and meeting-rooms of the governing body of the town, at present consisting of commissioners under the Towns Improvement Act. Assembly-rooms appropriated to public amusements have also been fitted up within this building, which was erected by the late corporation in 1779. The Custom House, apparently well suited to the requirements of the port, is also situated on the quay; while the barracks, which are capable of accommodating two companies of infantry, stand at a short distance north of the town. The poor-house, that at this time had been but recently built, is situated in the same vicinity—the poor having been theretofore sheltered and supported in private houses. Their numbers which, during the previous years of destitution were very large, were at the period of which I am now speaking considerably decreasing.

This ancient place, a corporate town and parish in the barony of Imokilly, county of Cork, about thirty miles from Cork city, and 125 from Dublin, is said to have derived its name, which signifies, "a wooded place," from the formerly thickly-wooded range of hills at the foot of which it is situated. When the English adventurers established themselves in this country, it became in their estimation a place of considerable importance, on account of the facility it afforded them of obtaining aid from their own country, and accordingly we find, that so early as the year 1209, King John conferred a charter of incorporation upon it. We are also informed that Maurice Fitz-Gerald founded a Franciscan monastery on the south side of the town, in 1224, which was the first religious establishment of that celebrated order founded in Ireland. This nobleman, alike distinguished for his talents and his virtues, retired from the world in the year 1245, and taking upon himself the habit of St. Francis,

entered this convent, where, after the lapse of some ten or twelve years, he died, and was buried within its precincts. His second son, Thomas, in 1260, completed this renowned abbey, which, during his father's life-time, was not entirely finished. To the son of Thomas Fitz-Gerald here mentioned is ascribed the foundation of a Dominican monastery, called the Friary of St. Mary of Thanks, about the year 1270; the western gable and some of the eastern portions of which are still to be seen at the north end of the town. Near the old Franciscan abbey, at the southern extremity of the town, some handsome houses and a spacious hotel were erected some years ago by the late Duke of Devonshire. A collegiate establishment was founded here in the year 1464, by Thomas, Earl of Desmond, and amply endowed with lands. The church of this establishment, called



OLD CHURCH OF YOUGHAL.

the Old Church of Youghal, considered one of the finest specimens of the enriched Gothic, or Early Pointed English style of architecture, to be seen in Ireland, consisted of a nave, choir, transept, and north and south aisles, with a square tower about 50 feet in height on the north side. That portion of this magnificent structure at present, and for many years, appropriated to Protestant worship, consists of the nave and aisles, which, some years since, underwent considerable repairs, and constitute the parochial church. The choir is a splendid ruin, and with its east or chancel window of six lights, five mullions, and elegant head tracery, is worthy of the notice and unqualified admiration of the visitor. On the north side of the altar is a canopied niche

with richly-decorated crocketed finials of elegant design, which was formerly the receptacle of a tomb, but of which nothing now remains save the inscription, that records the name Thomas Fleming. On the south side of the altar is another ancient tomb, and on the same side a chapel, anciently called the Chantry of our Blessed Saviour, which was purchased from the corporation by the first Earl of Cork, and contains the remains of that nobleman and several of his family. The handsome altar tomb erected to the memory of the earl is a remarkably striking object, upon which he is represented in effigy in a recumbent position, beneath a splendid arch, together with his two wives in a kneeling posture; while on either side and around are the effigies of his children. Above the monument is a large mural tablet of black marble, upon which is inscribed a genealogy of the family. The north transept is converted to a vestry, and the south contains some ancient monuments of the founder, the Earl of Desmond, and other members of his family; this transept is considered the private property of the Duke of Devonshire. Near the south end of the town is a chapel of ease, a neat but plain building, erected in 1817, within the cemetery of the old Dominican convent, at an expense of £1,200, of which £900 was a gift from the late Board of First Fruits, the remainder being raised by subscription.

The Catholic church of Youghal, which comprises the whole of the parishes of St. Mary and Clonpriest, is a neat modern structure, 100 feet in length by 50 in breadth, and is constructed of materials similar to those used in the erection of the Court House, being a greenish-coloured stone, with quoins and ornamental edgings of pure granite. The tower and spire are built of the same materials, and present a light and graceful appearance. The interior is chaste and beautiful, and affords excellent accommodation, as deep galleries occupy the western ends of the nave and aisles; in the rear of the nave gallery is the nice organ. The altars are very fine and nicely ornamented, the centre or principal one being enriched with a splendid painting of the Crucifixion, brought from Lisbon. The convent of the Nuns of the Presentation order, with its neat chapel and large school, is finely situated in the southern part of the town, where as many as five or six hundred poor female children were at this time receiving the benefit of a good and useful education. Towards the erection and establishment of this valuable institution, the pious and benevolent Miss Gould, of the Doneraile Convent, subscribed the munificent sum of £2,000. There are also in this town a Wesleyan Methodist chapel, and a Quakers' meeting-house; an infirmary, Fever Hospital, and savings-bank; branches of the Provincial and National Banks have been established here. The College House, as it is called, the property of the Duke of Devonshire, and his residence when he visits Youghal, is situated near the church, and is a handsome quadrangular building, enriched with a circular tower at each angle. In the great hall may be seen one of the ancient mantel-

pieces of the old house; erected in 1464, and replaced by the present modern mansion; the grounds are nicely laid out and ornamented with fine specimens of the myrtle, bay, and arbutus trees.

On a hill above the town is pointed out the spot where the first potato, brought by Sir Walter Raleigh from America, was planted. In this vicinity, and adjoining the ancient churchyard, which is considered one of the most picturesque burial-grounds of the olden times to be seen in this country, is the house in which the brave and adventurous Raleigh once resided. This house, which is a fine specimen of the true Elizabethan style of architecture, was erected by Sir Walter in the year 1586, and from its fine situation and peculiar characteristics, including its tall chimneys and pointed gables, together with the splendid oak carving and polishing of the drawing-room panelling, is worthy of a visit from the lover of the antique. The mantelpiece in this room is entitled to especial notice, being considered exceedingly beautiful, and enriched with figures of Faith, Hope, and Charity, which support the ample cornice, the whole being embellished with a variety of richly-carved figures and emblematic devices. The demesne, which derived its name, Myrtle Grove, from the magnificent trees of this description in which it abounded, is enviably situated, and was also rendered remarkable for the luxuriant growth of the arbutus, bays, and other exotics which were planted in it. Besides the charter granted by King John, we find that others were conferred upon Youghal by Edward III., Edward IV., Richard III., Henry VII., James I., and James II. That of the latter monarch became void on his expulsion from the throne, and the town continued to be governed under the charter of James I., down to the year 1841, when it was abolished by the Irish Municipal Corporations Act. The town continued to send two members to the Irish parliament, from the year 1374 till the Union, since which period it has returned one to the Imperial parliament. The income arising from the corporate lands, and the interest of the capital invested in the bridge, amount at present to a sum of £800 a year, which amount is disposed of by the Town Commissioners, by whom the town is lighted with gas and supplied with water. This town will very soon have the great advantage of railway communication, as the projected line to it from Cork is now nearly all open for traffic; and we find that an extension of this line from the terminus here to the quays is in contemplation, as a bill to obtain power for carrying out such an extension was laid before parliament, when it assembled on the 5th of February, 1861.

On the occasion of my last visit to Youghal, I travelled by the coach which left Cork at four o'clock in the evening, so that it was half-past eight before I arrived there. The harbour appeared to the greatest advantage on this evening, as the moon, which was but a little beyond its full, had just risen, and stood proudly above the undulating range by which its broad bosom is sheltered on the east. The rich and mild

effulgence of the chaste luminary of the night, as it fell upon the surface of the renowned Blackwater, had a truly delightful effect, likening the wide expanse below to the azure vault above, by the glory of its sparkling brilliancy, while the serene atmosphere, like the cloudless sky, gave additional charms to the soul-entrancing scene.

One of the greatest treats that can be enjoyed in the south of Ireland is that which may be obtained while sailing up the Blackwater, from Youghal to Cappoquin; and my kind and attentive host having procured for me a neat boat and two stout rowers, I started about the middle of the next day to participate in the superlative attractions it holds out.

On leaving the quay, the pretty little church which stands at the Ferry Point on the Waterford side of the river strikes upon the view, and, with its neat steeple, is a very pleasing object. The next feature that attracts attention is the handsome wooden bridge which, about a mile above the town, crosses the river, and which, independent of the extensive causeway on the western side, is 1,780 feet in length, and 22 feet in breadth, within the side rails. This very striking and important structure, which cost £30,000, was erected after a design of the celebrated Mr. Nimmo, and is supported on fifty-seven sets of piers of five pillars each. Passing beneath the bridge, I saw several men in large open boats engaged in fishing for sprats, and was informed that great quantities of these tiny creatures are periodically taken in this part of the river. From the vicinity of the bridge can be obtained an excellent view of Muckridge House, which is admirably situated, and surrounded with rich and spreading trees. Rhincrew Abbey is the next important object that arrests the tourist's attention, which, situated on a bold promontory above the river, and formerly a place of great strength, is, notwithstanding its present ruined state, a very interesting feature. This once important abbey is said to have been a preceptory of the Knights Templars, which, on the suppression of that distinguished order, was transferred to the Knights Hospitallers, also called the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem. The venerable ruin of Temple-Michael next arrests the notice and excites the interest of the tourist, its square embattled tower contrasting strikingly with the neat modern church in its vicinity. This castle is said to have been built by the Templars to guard the channel at this point. Several fine seats appear in this neighbourhood, among which may be mentioned Ardsallagh House, a nice fanciful structure, at this time the residence of Mrs. Ronayne, widow of the late Dominick Ronayne, Esq., M.P. Much praise has been bestowed upon the splendid scenery of this beautiful river, and most certainly it is well deserving of all that has been said or written in its favour. Every bend and curve of the winding stream discloses new features, teeming with scenes so strikingly beautiful as can bear a comparison with the most favoured and enviable localities. Advancing up the river, the extensive and ancient ruin of Ballinatra presents itself, and is well calculated to afford the tourist a

rich treat, should leisure permit him to make a careful examination of it. In the summer season numerous parties from Youghal, Cappoquin, Lismore, and other places in the neighbourhood, resort to this very interesting place, and find ample food for their gratification and enjoyment amid its rich and beautiful scenes. This magnificent ruin is on the estate of Richard Smith, Esq., whose splendid mansion and extensive demesne soon after display themselves; 200 acres of this fine demesne are appropriated to a deer park. I saw several herds of these fine animals as I passed. At some distance from this place, but on the opposite side of the river, appear the fine mansion and demesne of Clashmore, which are situated beyond the estuary formed by an arm of the river. This splendid seat was the property and residence of the late Mr. Power, and is now in the occupation of the Earl of Huntingdon.

We next arrived at Strandcally Castle, an ancient and interesting ruin, and formerly a place of great strength. Repeated diggings and excavations have been made within the ruin, and beneath its outward walls, by money seekers, who were anxious to make a short cut to fortune. About half way between Youghal and Cappoquin the tourist becomes struck by the appearance of the beautiful new mansion and extensive demesne of John Keily, Esq. This fine place is also called Strandcally Castle, taking its name from the old castle just mentioned. The richly ornamented house is of recent erection, and partakes of the florid Gothic style of architecture, displaying great variety in its several details. The ruin of an ancient square castle, in tolerable preservation, stands near the water's edge on a part of the demesne; it is richly mantled with ivy, and has recently been converted into a police barrack. Not far from this demesne, the river Bride, a tributary of the Blackwater, falls into the latter river.

The next and, in my judgment, the grandest and most striking feature that presents itself on the Blackwater, is Dromana, the fine seat of Lord Stuart de Decies. This very remarkable residence is romantically situated on the extreme verge of a perpendicular rock, that rises precipitously above the river, and contrasts finely with the tranquil and lake-like appearance of the gently flowing waters, as they glide beneath; while the extensive meadows, rich lawns, and umbrageous trees, constitute it an enviable retreat, environed by scenes of perfect loveliness. This, indeed, may be called a fairy region, the lofty summit of Knockmeledown mountain appearing in the distance, and giving a finish and completeness to the transcendently interesting and picturesque whole, which cannot fail to delight the lover of the sublime and beautiful, by its charming and unrivalled combinations. Leaving Dromana, and looking on the opposite side of the river, Sir Richard Musgrave's fine mansion appears, surrounded by trees of variegated richness and beauty. Some years ago this patriotic and public-spirited proprietor, at a considerable expense, placed a neat small steamer on the river, which, besides affording increased facilities for

traffic, was admirably suited to the requirements of the tourist, whose predilection for scenic beauty might induce him to visit this delightful locality. It is much to be regretted that the intentions of the liberal and enterprising baronet, in this instance, proved unavailing, as the beautiful little boat, the *Star*, had, a short time previous to my last visit, been withdrawn, the traffic on the river being inadequate to her support. The same nice little craft was subsequently placed on the river Slaney, to ply between the towns of Wexford and Enniscorthy, but with no better success, as after a few trial trips she was withdrawn from this river also.

Arriving at Cappoquin, the tourist becomes struck with the fine new bridge of six arches, which spans the river at this place. The materials used in its construction are of a superior description, and give it a light and very prepossessing appearance. The fineness of the weather and the season of the year, alike genial and propitious, for it was the third week in September, greatly enhanced the pleasure arising from my passage up the far-famed Blackwater; while the out-door enjoyment in so delightful a country could not fail to excite feelings of unalloyed gratification. The woodland scenery, too, had up to this time retained its rich and luxuriant appearance, and consequently my cherished predilection for this season above all others had, throughout the whole of my tour, suffered no abatement. The people in the rural districts in general were then engaged in their harvest work, and joy and apparent happiness pervaded the entire face of the land. These pleasing anticipations of smiling plenty, however, so universally entertained at this period, were destined to receive a severe check, as the fatal certainty of the potato crop being again attacked by its insidious and fell destroyer was but too palpable. The consequent reaction in the public mind, arising from this startling calamity, was as signal as the intelligence was appalling. The small town of Cappoquin, to which we had now arrived, is nicely situated between the river Blackwater and the range of finely planted woodland which, about a mile west of the town, sweeps in a gentle curve to its eastern extremity, and thereby protects and shelters it on the north from the fierce and rugged winds of winter. The Protestant church, with its handsome tower and steeple, enclosed within a railed-in space, and surrounded with nice trees, has a very pleasing appearance. The handsome Catholic church, which is divided by a mere boundary wall from the former house of worship, is a commodious edifice, and such as can rarely be seen in a town of this class. In its immediate vicinity is a small convent of the pious and devoted Sisters of Mercy, where, as in other localities, numbers of female children receive the rudiments of a religious and useful education.

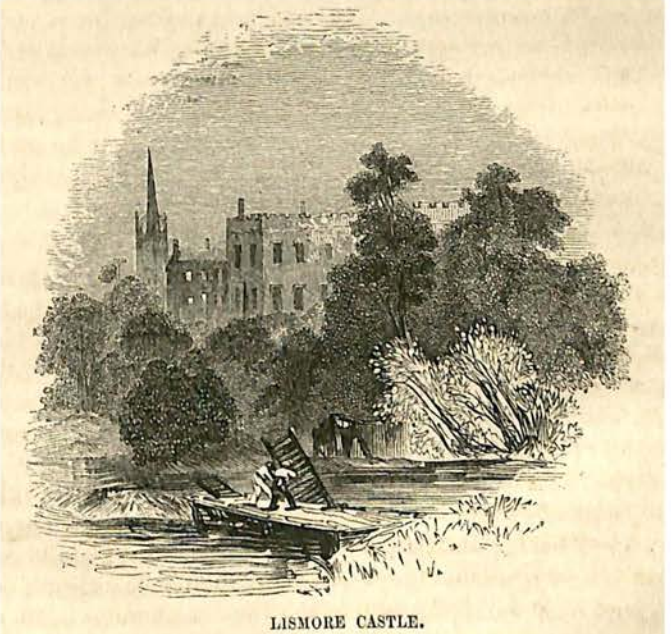
In the centre of the village are a small market-square, and a neat market-house, with convenience for weighing the several articles of agricultural produce which are brought into the town for sale. Here also there are a few middling shops, but the houses in general are of

an inferior description, and at this time several of them were unoccupied, as many of the inhabitants had recently emigrated. Cappoquin House, and the surrounding extensive and beautiful demesne, are situated immediately above the town, on the side of the richly planted height by which it is bounded on the north. This fine seat is the residence of Sir John Henry Keane, Bart., who succeeded his late father, Sir Richard Keane, in 1855. This much respected resident proprietor is the owner of the property on which the town of Cappoquin stands. West of the town appears Salterbridge, the enviable seat of Richard Chearnly, Esq. It is bounded on the east by a richly wooded ravine, by which it is divided from the demesne of Cappoquin House, and is separated by an equally rich and romantic glen from the Duke of Devonshire's extensive grounds on the west.

Riding along the south side of the Blackwater from Cappoquin to Lismore, the tourist will find much to excite his imagination, and minister to his gratification, as the banks of the river, especially on the opposite or northern side, are clothed and enriched with the most luxuriant plantations. Many neat fanciful villas and handsome cottages are to be seen along this line, their occupants in general being tenants of the Duke of Devonshire. Boats or lighters are constantly plying between Cappoquin and Lismore, by which a traffic is carried on between these towns and Youghal. Part of the journey between the two former places is made by a canal, as the river is not navigable for them the entire distance. The first object that arrests the tourist's attention as he approaches the town of Lismore is the light and elegant spire of the Protestant church, as it appears rising above the rich and beautiful trees by which it is encircled. This forms a very distinguishing and interesting feature, and can be seen at a distance of several miles. On entering Lismore, the visitor's attention becomes directed to the Nunnery, a fine new square building, flanked on each side by an uniform and characteristic structure, which is connected with the centre house by a low corridor. One of these ornamental adjuncts is the chapel of the convent, and the other the school, in which a large number of female children are educated. The Catholic church, with its neat tower, is nicely situated, and, together with the house of the parish priest, which immediately adjoins it, appears to considerable advantage. The style of this church is cruciform, with a gallery in each transept as well as in the nave, whereby additional accommodation is afforded to the large congregation which frequents it. A large cemetery has been recently laid out in the vicinity of this church, the ground, which is of considerable extent, being a gift from the late lamented Duke of Devonshire to the Roman Catholic inhabitants. A neat little chapel, in the pointed Gothic style, has been erected in the centre of the cemetery, in which the burial prayers for the dead are recited previous to the interment. There is a neat Sessions House in the town, with an attached bridewell; and also a Fever Hospital and a police barrack. A branch of the Provincial Bank has

been established here. The hotel, kept by Mr. William Dobbyn, is a commodious house; the dining and sitting rooms being large and lofty, and the bed-rooms of corresponding character; eighteen or twenty visitors can be accommodated here at one time. There is a posting establishment connected with the hotel. The proprietor of this house is brother to Mr. James Dobbyn, the respectable proprietor of the Commercial Buildings' Hotel, on the Mall, in Waterford, and also to the late Mr. Richard Dobbyn, the owner of the excellent and well-conducted hotel in Tipperary. Lismore is a remarkably nice and clean little town, and appears to be a reasonably good business place. The shops in general are neat and tastefully fitted up; a few of them, however, were at this time unoccupied, those by whom they had been tenanted having recently emigrated. Emigration on a comparatively large scale had taken place in this part of the country, so much so that fears were entertained that it would be somewhat difficult to obtain tradesmen or labourers to supply the necessary wants of the public.

Having indulged my curiosity in viewing the town, I proceeded to the grand castle of his Grace the Duke of Devonshire. On making application to Mr. Curry, his Grace's agent, I procured a ticket to view the castle, the pleasure-grounds, and gardens. This fine castle,



LISMORE CASTLE.

which retains much of its ancient style, and is the residence of the Duke when he visits this country, is entered beneath an extensive and lofty arch, flanked on each side by an antique tower. The inner entrance that leads into the spacious court-yard, which forms a quad-

rangle, is also defended by a strong tower. From this court-yard the visitor obtains a view of the four sides of the castle, on parts of which appear round and square towers of great antiquity. The principal or central tower was, at this time, having an addition of 50 feet made to its height, and considerable alterations and additions were being carried out on several other parts of the extensive building. There were, as I was informed by the person who showed me through the grounds and gardens, nearly 500 persons constantly employed upon the buildings at the castle, the gardens, pleasure-grounds, and farms. From the works at this time in progress, and those then in contemplation, I was fully impressed with the conviction that most of the tradesmen and artificers then engaged upon them would find ample employment for the ensuing three years.

While walking through the domestic offices, I noticed two beautiful dogs of a rare breed, which the Duke brought over from Chatsworth. They were of Pomeranian descent; milk white, the hair rather long, with handsome curling tails, and a head, ears, and nose like the fox.

During my visit to the castle I happened to see three or four delinquents who were brought before Mr. Curry, who is a magistrate. They were charged by the police with being drunk; but there were no aggravating circumstances connected with the charge. The magistrate intimated his regret that he should be under the necessity of inflicting a fine upon them of two shillings and sixpence each, and expressed a hope that it would be long before he should see them under similar circumstances. This was the only instance during my tour of three weeks that anything of the kind came under my observation. I conversed with the police who conducted these parties to the castle, and was much gratified to hear from them that their duties were comparatively light, and the country peaceable.

Having made the requisite entry in the visitors' book, I was conducted by the housekeeper through the state apartments of the castle. We first entered the dining-room, which is of ample dimensions, richly decorated, and splendidly furnished. We next entered the Duke's private room, which is superbly furnished, and ornamented with rare and valuable pictures. We now proceeded to the grand drawing-room, the style and furniture of which are quite in keeping with the other rooms, while the pictures, which are by the first masters, are of great merit. The internal grandeur and magnificence, however, of this and the Duke's private room are entirely eclipsed by the splendour of the views that can be obtained from their windows. In these views are combined varied scenes of the most extensive and charming description, consisting of mountain and valley, wood and water, with every variety of tree, shrub, and flower. The sublimity and picturesque splendour of these delightful views will long live in the remembrance of those who have been so fortunate as to behold them. We next entered the billiard-room, a large and lofty saloon, which is lighted by a dome in the day-time, and by an elegant chandelier at night. Our

next visit was to the ball-room, which was undergoing considerable improvements; an elegant orchestra or music gallery had then been erected on one side of the magnificent chamber, while the embellishments were of a rich and costly character. The ceilings of the several chambers and saloons, some of them of splendid blue and gold, are of the most gorgeous and beautiful description, and must have been as expensive as they are brilliant and imposing. When the works at this time in progress, and those which were in contemplation, are entirely finished, Lismore Castle will be an object to be looked upon with pride and admiration.

Accompanied by the under-gardener, I now proceeded to view the pleasure-grounds and gardens, noticing, in the first instance, a new and extensive vinery. In this vicinity, a rare and valued exotic called the Cape Heath was pointed out. Proceeding to the terrace, the favourite walk of his Grace the late Duke, that runs east of the old fortification which is flanked on each extremity by a circular tower, I noticed some artificial caverns, which have a novel and pleasing effect. From this delightful promenade an admirable view can be obtained of Cappoquin, with its handsome bridge, and of the mansion and demesne of Sir John Henry Keane, Bart., near that town. The fine Protestant church of Lismore, with its elegant spire, and the Catholic church, with its graceful tower, are seen to great advantage from the terrace. We descended from the terrace by what are still called Sir Walter Raleigh's steps, which, being considered rather abrupt by his Grace the late Duke, had been altered so as to render them more easy of ascent. Entering the pleasure-grounds that lie south of the castle, I noticed some fine specimens of the highly-prized Cedar of Lebanon, and also one of the rare Chili pine, or *Araucaria Imbricata;* and another rare plant, called *Yucca gloriosa*, or Adam's Needle, which is said to flower but once in a hundred years. The Cedar of Deodore was likewise pointed out, and an Acacia, a native of New Holland, the largest of the kind, it is supposed, in the British Islands; with an immense variety of rare and valued plants, which I had not leisure to particularise. The Old Yew Walk, of more than a hundred years' standing, is a great curiosity. The fine old trees growing into each other form a continuous natural arch of 150 feet in length, which, by the gardener's art, has been fashioned so as to represent what in architecture is designated the Gothic style. At the south end of this walk is placed a rustic fanciful chair of the old Irish oak, whereon visitors are wont to sit and enjoy the beautiful prospect before them. The gardens and pleasure-grounds are under the care and direction of Mr. Keane. Descending the long flight of steps east of the castle, we arrived at the margin of the river, which here presents a peculiarly interesting and romantic appearance. In this vicinity are placed salmon weirs, in which abundant quantities of that fine fish are captured. An excellent view of the castle can be obtained from the fine bridge of twelve arches, which spans the river immediately

south-east of the lordly pile, as the grand portions of it display their rich façades to this side. Several nice villas appear in this neighbourhood, rising amid trees of the most luxuriant foliage.

The appearance of Lismore and the surrounding country bespeaks the munificence and generosity of the noble proprietor, the late Duke of Devonshire, who, notwithstanding his being, generally speaking, an absentee, was, like the Marquis of Lansdowne, fully impressed with the important truth enunciated by the late Right Hon. Thomas Drummond, Under-Secretary of State for Ireland, that "property has its duties as well as its rights." I sincerely hope that the present Duke, who has but recently succeeded to the title and estates of his lamented predecessor, will imitate his noble example, and thereby entitle himself to the respect and affection of a large and grateful tenantry. The poor-house stands somewhat apart from the town, and was at this time showing a considerable decrease in the number of its inmates, which within the last year had become less by one-half. The poor-houses in general were now almost entirely emptied of able-bodied men; indeed, there could be no excuse for persons of this description seeking shelter in such institutions, as there was a great want felt in this part of Ireland for harvest labourers. Lismore, formerly a parliamentary borough, and the seat of a diocese, became at an early period a place of considerable importance, and derives its name, which signifies "a great house or village," from a monastery founded here by St. Carthagh, who died in the year 638, and was interred in his own church. He was succeeded by St. Cathaldus, who afterwards became Bishop of Tarentum, in Italy. The school founded here by this saint was attended by numbers, not only from the neighbouring districts, but also from distant places, and was in high repute about the commencement of the eighth century. Such were the fame and character of this place that, we are told, not less than twenty churches were founded in its immediate vicinity. In 812 the monastery was plundered by the Danes, who, from that period till the year 915, repeated their devastations no less than five times. In 978 the town and abbey were burned by the people of Ossory, who invaded the district, and from the year 1095 to 1157, the town suffered from repeated accidental conflagrations. Lismore is a parish partly in the barony of Condons and Clongibbons, in the county of Cork, but chiefly in that of Coshmore and Coshbride, in the county of Waterford, about thirty-four miles from Waterford city, and 110 from Dublin. Such was the importance of this place that, soon after Henry II. landed at Waterford, he marched thither, where he was met by the principal chieftains of Munster, who, with several of the archbishops and bishops of Ireland, tendered him their allegiance, and acknowledged the sovereignty of himself and his heirs for ever. While here, this monarch selected a site and gave directions for the erection of a fortress for the defence of the town. In 1173, as we are informed, Raymond le Gros, with the English army under

his command, marched to Lismore with the plunder they had taken in Ophaly, and after having ravaged the city and neighbourhood, proceeded to Dungarvan. In 1185 a castle was erected here by John, Earl of Moreton, and Lord of Ireland, which, four years afterwards, was taken by the Irish. In the assault made upon Lismore by the Irish on this occasion, the brave Robert Barry, nephew of Fitz-Stephen, and brother of Gerald Barry, surnamed Giraldus Cambrensis, who accompanied his uncle in his expedition from Wales to the coast of Wexford, was taken, and with several others put to death. The castle was soon after rebuilt by the king, and for many ages continued to be the residence of the bishops of the diocese, until Miler Magrath, Archbishop of Cashel and Lismore, in the year 1518, granted the manor and other lands to Sir Walter Raleigh; from whom, together with the rest of his possessions, they were purchased by Sir Richard Boyle, afterwards Earl of Cork. The castle was greatly strengthened and improved by this earl, who built three other forts in the neighbourhood, one of which was at the park, one at Ballygarran, and the third at Ballyinn. He also obtained a charter of incorporation for the town, with the grant of a market and fairs.

At the commencement of the war in 1641, the castle was besieged by a force of 500 of the Confederate Irish under the command of Sir Richard Belling, but was bravely defended by the earl's son, Lord Broghill, who forced them to abandon the attempt. In July, 1643, Lieutenant-General Purcell, commander-in-chief of the Irish Confederate forces, at the head of 7,000 foot and 900 horse, with three pieces of artillery, marched to Cappoquin, where he remained for three or four days, and being joined by the Earl of Muskerry, he advanced to besiege the castle of Lismore. After a week's siege, however, a cessation of arms was mutually agreed on, and the assailants retired. Still the castle sustained great injury during the war, and in 1645, being burned by Lord Castlehaven, it was reduced almost to a ruin, and the town became a neglected village. In the year 1686, the Earl of Clarendon, in his progress through Munster, passed a night in this castle, which was also visited by James II., in 1689. In 1785, the Duke of Rutland, Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, held a council in the castle, from which there issued several proclamations. Lismore Castle, with all its lands and appurtenances, as well as other property in this part of Ireland, descended by marriage from the Earls of Cork and Burlington to the ancestor of his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, the present proprietor.

By the charter of incorporation conferred upon the town by James I., and granted in 1613 to Sir Richard Boyle, first Earl of Cork, the town, with the circumjacent lands, extending a mile and a half round the parish church, was created a free borough, with the privilege of returning two members to the Irish parliament, which privilege continued to be exercised till the Union, when the borough was disfranchised, and the sum of £15,000, awarded as compensation, was

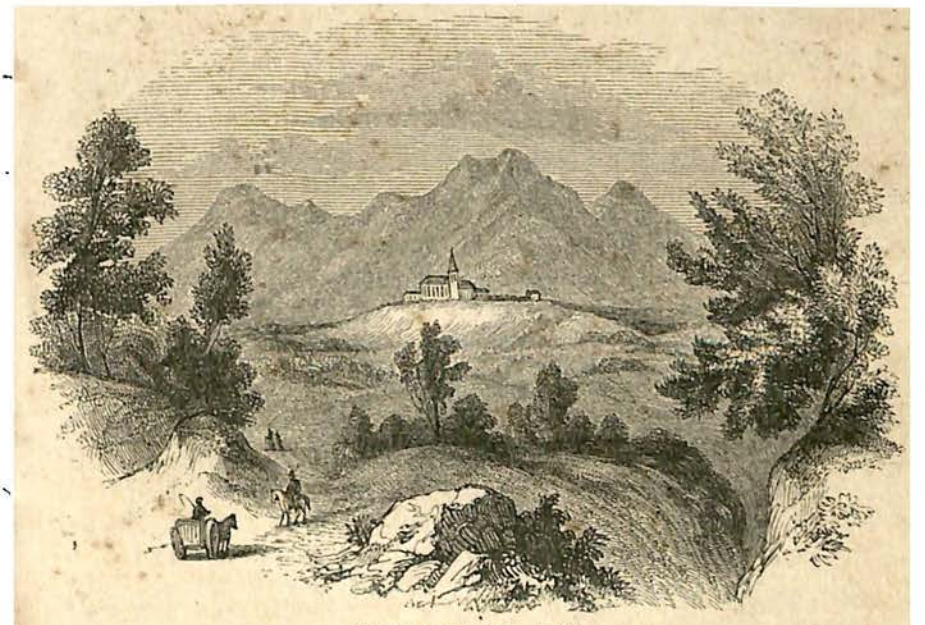
paid to the trustees of the Earls of Cork and Burlington. By the Church Temporalities Act, of the 3rd and 4th of William IV., the Protestant see of Lismore was annexed to the episcopal see of Cashel. In the Roman Catholic divisions this diocese is united with that of Waterford. Of the numerous churches of this once celebrated place, the only one now remaining is the cathedral church dedicated to St. Carthagh, which was almost destroyed in the reign of Elizabeth, by Edmund Fitzgibbon, designated the White Knight. It was restored in 1663 at the expense of the Earl of Cork, and is now the Protestant parish church. It may be considered a handsome structure, partaking of the later English style of architecture, with a square tower surmounted by a light and elegant spire. The tower and spire were added some thirty years since, when extensive alterations and repairs were made upon it. The church is entered at the extremity of the south transept, beneath a Norman arch of elegant design; and the choir, in which the parochial service is performed, is embellished with windows of stained glass, which enhance the solemnity of its appearance. A richly-sculptured monument to the family of MacGrath, bearing date 1548, is to be seen in the cathedral.

On my return from Lismore to Cappoquin, I set out for the celebrated Abbey of Mount Melleray, which is about four miles from the latter place. On the line of road leading to this very interesting monastery, the tourist will pass an extensive and richly-wooded glen, called Gancherone, at the entrance to which is a very neat cottage. From this point can be obtained a full view of the Lismore group of mountains, the highest of which, Knockmeledown, is 2,700 feet above the level of the sea.

Mount Melleray Abbey, a monastery of the rigid and severe order of "La Trappe," is situated on the sloping side of a hilly range beneath the Lismore and Cappoquin mountains; a very ungenial site indeed. The grounds and gardens, which are somewhat extensive, have all been reclaimed from their barren state by the incessant labour and persevering industry of the religious and self-sacrificing brethren of the abbey; and it is really surprising to behold what their patience and toil have accomplished under such difficulties as the rocky and arid surface presented. The lands appertaining to the abbey are well cultivated, and the gardens laid out with care and skill; but notwithstanding all the pains bestowed upon them by these patient and enduring men, the failure of the potato crop, and the general poverty of the soil, render it impossible for them to raise provisions sufficient for their independent support, and consequently several of the brotherhood have emigrated to America—while it became necessary to set a subscription on foot for sustaining those who remained. The monastery, the church, the school, the workshops, and various offices, are all the work of the brethren of the order, who number among them tradesmen of every description.

On the occasion of my visit, I was so far favoured as to be accom-

panied by one of the brotherhood through the whole of this large and interesting establishment. I was first shown through the beautiful church, and was forcibly struck with the style and grandeur of the magnificent altar, the entire of which, including its chaste and various ornaments, is also the work of the members of the brotherhood. This elegant church is appropriated exclusively to the use of the members of the community. I was next shown through the outer chapel, which is divided by a partition from the former; it is a commodious place of



MOUNT MELLERAY ABBEY.

worship, and is open to the people of the neighbouring district. We next visited the chapter-room, or lecture-hall, a fine oblong chamber, at the upper end of which is situated the abbot's throne, beneath a splendid representation of our Redeemer's crucifixion. Beside the throne are the seats of the prior and sub-prior, and along the sides of the hall are stalls for the brethren of the order, according to seniority. The dining-hall is a chamber of the same form and dimensions as that last mentioned, with a seat for the abbot beneath a crucifix, and beside it, as in the former instance, seats for the prior and sub-prior; the brethren also take their places according to seniority. Flesh meat is never used in this establishment, the community living upon vegetables and milk. The brethren bake their own bread, cook their own food, and make their own clothing and all other necessaries. In the dormitory, a large oblong room, the sleeping places are divided from each other, and a plain curtain drawn across the entrance to each compartment, over which the name of the brother to whom it belongs is labelled. The articles of bedding were plain, but perfectly clean, and,

according to my notion, scanty. Accommodation is afforded here for some seventy or eighty brothers, but several of the compartments were unfurnished, as the number of the community at this time did not exceed between fifty and sixty individuals. I next proceeded, attended by the kind brother, to view the cemetery, noticing the tomb of the first abbot, Dr. Ryan, and also the graves of several of the brethren of the order; a plain cross stood at the head of each grave. The building forms a spacious quadrangle, around which run the cloisters. A rigid silence is observed in all the principal portions of the abbey, and the ominous and awe-inspiring word is written on several parts of the interior. This ordinance is punctually observed in the church, the chapter-room, dining-hall, and dormitory; in other parts of the institution an exception to this severe rule is allowed. The habits of the lay brothers are brown, with a cowl, which they raise when they enter the church and other parts of the abbey; the clerics of the order wear white habits. My final visit was to the school, which is situated about 100 yards from the abbey. It is a large building, originally extending a length of over 90 feet; an addition of 60 feet was at this time being built, which was to be divided into class-rooms for the pupils. The scholars, who were fine, interesting-looking youths, were not boarded in the establishment, but lodged in the houses of the neighbouring farmers.

Proceeding from Cappoquin to Dungarvan, the tourist cannot fail to notice Major Alcock's fine seat called Richmond, the house being enviably and conspicuously situated amid rich and ornamental plantations. About half a mile farther on is obtained an excellent view of the handsome residence of Beresford B. Poer, Esq., at this time High Sheriff of the County of Waterford. This is a very nice place, the mansion being commodious, and the demesne richly planted. From this point, looking in a westerly direction, can be had a magnificent view, in which is embraced a considerable portion of the valley of the Blackwater, that extends from Cappoquin to Fermoy, and which includes within it Sir John H. Keane's mansion and demesne, with Mr. Chearnley's fine seat, and the rich and highly ornamental grounds of Lismore; while, on the south, the magnificent demesne of Lord Stuart de Decies is equally open to observation.

Advancing onwards for a distance of about four miles, the tourist will arrive at Rockfield, the beautiful residence of Pierce Healy, Esq., where the splendid mansion, surrounded by trees of great beauty, appears to much advantage. This fine place derives considerable advantage from the river Finisk, a tributary of the Blackwater, by which it is embellished, as it flows beneath the house. On the opposite side of the road, at about the distance of a mile, appears the delightful residence of Richard Ussher, Esq., the fine demesne of which is ornamented and diversified by lakes and rich plantations.

Soon after passing this handsome place, the harbour of Dungarvan falls under observation, together with the promontory called Helwick

Head, a bold and striking feature. Approaching the old, and I regret that I cannot add the flourishing, town of Dungarvan, a very interesting object presents itself, which is the new convent of the Nuns of the Presentation order. This handsome building, with its appropriate adjuncts—the neat chapel and school-house—forms an institution as pleasing to the eye as it is gratifying to the philanthropic Christian heart. At a short distance from this establishment stands the union workhouse, where, as in many other institutions of the kind, a considerable diminution of the inmates had then taken place.

As a sea-port Dungarvan ranks comparatively low, the entrance to the harbour being so restricted by sand-banks as to prevent vessels of considerable burthen from obtaining access to it. It is entered by the passage called the Long Sound, which extends between the eastern headland, on which stands the lighthouse, and the flat rock that rises in the centre of the space which may be considered as the harbour's mouth. Even such vessels of light burthen as are enabled to pass the bar are precluded, by the projecting sand-bank in the harbour, from approaching the quays until they are lightened, or their cargoes discharged. They therefore ride at anchor under the shelter of the land, which extends in a north-easterly direction, inside of the Long Sound. Numbers of boats are engaged in the fishing trade here, and large quantities of hake and other coarse fish are taken by them. The quays are rude and irregular, and reflect but little credit on those who have the care and surveillance of them. This town, which derives its name from St. Garvan, who, in the seventh century, founded an abbey here for Canons Regular of the order of St. Augustine, is a parish in the barony of Decies-without-Drum, county of Waterford, about twenty-two miles from Waterford city, and ninety-eight from Dublin. In the early divisions of this part of Ireland, it formed the south-western barrier of the dependencies of Waterford, and on the arrival of Henry II., was, together with other territories, surrendered to that sovereign by Roderic O'Connor, monarch of all Ireland. A castle was erected for the defence of this place by King John, who is likewise said to have encompassed the town with a wall, strengthened by towers. In the year 1447, it appears that the castle, lands, and barony of Dungarvan, together with other territories, were granted to John Talbot, the celebrated Earl of Shrewsbury, who, it would seem, did not exercise the necessary vigilance for their preservation and protection, as we find, by an Act of Parliament passed at Wexford in the year 1463, the town and its defences were placed under the direction and inspection of Thomas, Earl of Desmond, to whom a fee farm grant of the whole was made during his life. From its great importance it experienced many vicissitudes, and passed into various hands, but ultimately, in the reign of James I., became vested by Act of Parliament in the Earl of Cork, from whom it descended to its present proprietor, the Duke of Devonshire.

In the great war of 1641 it became the theatre of frequent strife,

and, as the inhabitants took part with the Confederate party, it alternately fell into the hands of each of the contending parties. In the year 1649 it was in the possession of the Royalists, at which time, when Cromwell abandoned Waterford, he laid siege to it, and at the end of a few days it surrendered at discretion.

It has been stated that the ruthless Cromwell ordered the inhabitants to be put to the sword, but that in consequence of a female drinking his health as he entered the town, he recalled his terrible mandate, and, with the exception of the castle and church, saved the town from being plundered by his soldiers. It would require something more than mere assertion to induce us to give credence to this anecdote, so honourable to the redoubted Oliver, of whom it may with truth be said, that—

> "No prayer, no moving art,
> Could melt that fierce, inexorable heart."

If, however, such were the fact, it furnishes a striking proof that even the most rugged nature, or iron will, is liable to be influenced by that magical and delicate species of flattery, such as woman's intuitive tact enables her so judiciously and appropriately to administer. The charter of the inhabitants was renewed by Richard Cromwell in 1659, and a new one granted them by James II.; the latter, however, on the accession of William III., was annulled.

The town, which is situated at the head of the estuary, or bay, may be said to consist of one principal street, which extends from west to east. This, which is called Mulgrave Street, becomes divided in the eastern end into two short branches, that lead towards the mouth of the port. From these several smaller streets or lanes diverge, and lead to the line of quays which are formed along the shore. On the north side of the town is Devonshire Square, in which are some of the best houses in the town, and from which a handsome street leads to the bridge that spans the inlet or estuary. This bridge, a fine, massive structure, of a single arch of 75 feet span, which, with its causeway of 350 yards in length, opens a communication with the suburb of Abbeyside, was erected by the late Duke of Devonshire, in 1815, at an expense of £50,000. In Bridge Street, near the entrance into the town from the bridge, is situated the Sessions House, a neat modern building, attached to which is a bridewell. In the vicinity of the Sessions House is a neat meat-market, and in the rear of it a fish-market, both of which were erected at the expense of the Duke of Devonshire. A large number of the inhabitants derive employment from the fishing trade. The markets are held on Wednesday and Saturday, and there are four fairs in the year. There are branches of the Provincial and National Banks in the town, with a couple of hotels, which, like the shops, are of very plain character.

The Protestant church, a fine building of a strong and severe style of architecture, constructed of hewn stone, is situated in the centre of the popular burial-ground of the town. It is of cruciform character,

and is entered on the north by a handsome tower that rises in front of the nave. The parochial school, a neat cottage in the Elizabethan style, stands in the north-eastern angle of the churchyard. Immediately west of the church is the fragment of a ruin, consisting of the gable of an ancient building constructed of round stones, similar to those which were used in the old castellated ruin that adjoins the churchyard of Aghadoe, near Lady Headly's seat at Killarney. In this part of the town is situated a small and ancient church of the Friars of the Augustinian order. It is a very plain structure, with little to recommend it to the visitor's attention, save its antiquity. The very fine Catholic church, an excellent house of worship, occupies a very commanding site at the south side of the town, and is approached from William Street, one of the best and widest streets in Dungarvan. It stands in the centre of an extensive area, that has been converted into a cemetery, in which are several neat tombs and monuments. The front of the cemetery is ornamented by a light and beautiful iron railing embedded in cut stone, the entrance gate being of ample dimensions. This church is a fine oblong building, supported externally by eight buttresses on each side, which, gradually diminishing as they ascend to the edge of the roof, end in neat ornamental pinnacles, the eastern gable being graced by a handsome belfry, which supports a plain cross. The western gable contains a fine large window, and is ornamented by a neat spiral pinnacle; there are seven handsome windows in each side of the building. The site for this really fine church was given by his Grace the late Duke of Devonshire, who from time to time contributed nearly £1,500 towards its erection. It is in the later English style of architecture, with richly-groined ceilings, which in their general character and appearance resemble those of the Cork Catholic Cathedral; they are not, however, so rich, nor of such elaborate finish. The arcade arches spring from well-proportioned clustered columns, and the whole of the interior is beautiful and imposing. The grand altar, which is in the style of the magnificent altar of the abbey church at Mount Melleray, with its splendid representation of the Crucifixion, has a solemn and awe-inspiring effect. The side altars are of corresponding beauty, especially that of the Blessed Virgin, which is enriched with a splendid piece of marble sculpture, that displays on the front of the altar-table a fine representation of our Lord's Nativity. A neat gallery has been raised in the western end of the nave, but it does not project so as to interfere with the lightness and general harmony of the church. In the back centre of this gallery is the noble organ built by Telford, which was formerly an appendage of the celebrated Mount Melleray Church, and was purchased by the Very Rev. Dr. Hally, the parish priest, from the brethren of the abbey, for £600. A school for boys, and another for girls, are partly supported by the interest of a sum of £2,000, bequeathed by the late Pierse Barron, Esq., the schools being erected out of the bequest. The girls' school is under the

superintendence of the ladies of the convent, and the boys' under that of the Christian Brothers. A handsome school-house was erected here some thirty years ago, at an expense of £1,200, of which £100 was contributed by his Grace the late Duke of Devonshire, and the remainder by the late Right Rev. Dr. Foran, then parish priest. It is situated on an eminence commanding an extensive and beautiful view, and is a spacious edifice capable of affording accommodation to a large number of boys. A Fever Hospital and dispensary, towards which the humane and generous proprietor, the late Duke of Devonshire, and the late lamented Marquis of Waterford, contributed liberally, have for many years been established here. Some remains of the ancient castle and the defensive walls are still to be seen, the former consisting of the massive keep, situated within a quadrangular area, surrounded by a wall defended by a characteristic circular tower at each angle, and formerly mounted with cannon. The entrance is by a narrow passage beneath a strong gateway tower, flanked by circular bastions. Within the enclosure are the present military barracks, which are of limited extent, and scarcely sufficient to afford accommodation to a single company of infantry. On the summit of the northern boundary wall of the square, two guns were mounted at the time I paid my visit. At a short distance west of the town is a mound called Cromwell's Mount, which is supposed to have been thrown up by his army while engaged in besieging the town. In the Abbeyside division are the ruins of a lofty square tower, which is supposed to have belonged to the ancient family of MacGrath, the native chieftains of the district.

In the immediate vicinity of this ruin are the remains of a religious house founded in the thirteenth century for Friars of the Augustinian order. It does not appear to be known, with certainty, to whom this establishment owed its foundation, but it is alleged that the MacGraths and the O'Briens of Cummeragh were among its principal benefactors. According to Sir James Ware, a convent was founded at Dungarvan, by one of the Earls of Desmond, of which mention is made in the registries of that town for the year 1448. The remains of this monastery are very interesting, the walls, windows, and arches being still entire. The old conventual church consists of a narrow nave and chancel, which are connected by an arch of elegant design, supporting a light and finely-enriched tower 60 feet in height, and still in a state of comparatively good preservation. The entrance is at the west end by a small pointed doorway, while in the east end is a large window. Beneath this window is a tomb or monumental stone, erected to the memory of Donald MacGrath, which bears date 1400. The Roman Catholic church of this place has been built on some of the ancient cells of the abbey, while its bell has been hung in the old and stately tower. Of the ancient monastery erected by St. Garvan, so early as the seventh century, there are now no remains.

CHAPTER XXIV.

ENNIS, ENNISTYMON, AND OTHER TOWNS IN THE COUNTY OF CLARE.

In the latter end of the month of October, 1859, I proceeded to Munster, being desirous of visiting the county of Clare, my previous knowledge of which county was confined to that portion of it which is situated on the border of the river Shannon. On this occasion I had again the pleasure of enjoying the delightful trip from Ross to Waterford by the steamboat, and of seeing and admiring the splendid park and woodland scenery which adorns the banks of the Barrow and the Suir.

At six o'clock on Monday morning, the 24th of October, I took my seat in one of the carriages of the train which leaves Waterford for Limerick, and being anxious, with as little delay as possible, to enter the county of my destination, I obtained a ticket for Ennis, where the train arrived at half-past eleven o'clock, and having partaken of some refreshment, I started by the midday car for Ennistymon, where we arrived about half-past four o'clock in the evening. A considerable portion of the land between Ennis and Ennistymon is of a poor and light description, being in some instances covered with stones, such as are very frequently to be met with in the county of Galway. About seven miles from the first-named town, however, a rich and fertile valley extends for some miles in a westerly direction, commencing at the place where a very remarkable object presents itself, which is the ruin of an ancient castle, based on the summit of a detached and handsome elevation. This ruin, which is in tolerable preservation, is called Shally Castle, and the rich vein of country approximating to it bears the designation of the Vale of Shally. Portions of bog, on which turf is raised for fuel, frequently meet the traveller's eye along this line, which shows the care evinced by an All-wise and Merciful Providence for man's comfort and convenience, as these detached pieces of bog-land bring the article so much needed within the reach of so large a number of the occupiers of the soil.

In the neighbourhood of Ennistymon the tourist will notice, on the summit of a verdant elevation, the fragment of a once important stronghold, called Glan Castle. The small town of Ennistymon, which is situated in a valley, environed by handsome sheltering hills, forms

part of the parish of Kilmanaheen, in the barony of Corcomroe, about seventeen miles from Ennis, and 128 from Dublin. From its low position, it is, generally speaking, remarkable for the moisture of its atmosphere, and, as a matter of course, for the dampness of its streets. The Ennistymon river may be said to intersect the town, leaving, however, the most considerable and important portion of it on the eastern side. This river, after flowing beneath a substantial bridge of six arches, falls over a ledge of rocks that extends across its entire bed, which is about 200 feet wide, and in its descent forms a splendid cascade; thence, at the distance of about a quarter of a mile below the town, it forms a junction with the river Derry. The waterfall here mentioned is a very interesting feature, and the river in its immediate vicinity being, upon each of its banks, enriched with fine trees, appears to great advantage, and excites the notice and admiration of the visitor. On a gentle eminence immediately north of the town stands the Protestant church, a handsome cruciform edifice, of some thirty years' standing, in the later English style of architecture, with an octagon tower on its southern side resting on a massive quadrangular basement. From its situation, at the north entrance to the town, this striking house of worship appears to great advantage. Ennistymon House, a fine square building, is situated on a handsome elevation which overlooks the river, at a short distance from the church. This enviable mansion, the residence of Lieutenant-Colonel Francis Macnamara, is surrounded by a richly wooded demesne, which is margined on the west by the gently flowing river, and on the north by a romantic glen. The pleasure-grounds and gardens, owing to the great liberality of the gallant proprietor, are open to strangers as well as to the inhabitants of the town. The rich ravine that forms the deep tangled glen just mentioned is entered, about a quarter of a mile from the town, by a walk that extends along the eastern bank of the river. This sequestered and exceedingly interesting valley, which is about three-quarters of a mile in length, is much frequented by visitors from a distance, and forms a most agreeable place of recreation for the people of the town and neighbourhood. A clear and rapid river, which is fed by the waters of a lake about three miles distant from the glen, runs through the centre of the ravine, and, in some parts of it, flowing beneath and between steep and precipitous rocks, forms picturesque and beautiful cascades; again, the fretted stream, after rushing over its abrupt natural obstructions, tumbles into eddying pools of considerable depth.

Convenient pathways, sheltered from the rays of the summer's sun by rich and umbrageous trees, extend along each side of the vale, and, though perfectly safe, are in some places somewhat steep and irregular, and therefore add considerably to the romantic character of the wild scenery which, in so limited a space, so plentifully abounds. Returning from this interesting place by the river's bank, the visitor obtains an admirable view of the cascade near the town, as it falls over the

gradually declining rocks, which in broken and fantastic forms extend across the swollen and tumultuous river, which, after bounding over its rugged impediments, becomes comparatively tranquil, and in peaceful quietude pursues its course to where it becomes enlarged by the waters of the Derry, and thence to the point where it forms a junction with the river Inagh, near the ancient castle of Lahinch, which stands near the border of the estuary formed by the bay of Liscanor.

The Catholic church, a spacious cruciform structure, with a gallery in the end of each transept, is situated on a gentle eminence west of the river, and forms an exceedingly interesting feature in the surrounding and varied scenery; while the very neat cottage that occupies a still more elevated site west of the town and the church, in which the parish priest and his two curates reside, is also a pleasing and an agreeable object.

The ruin of the old Protestant church of the parish stands within the ancient popular burial-ground of the district, which is situated on the summit of a hill at a short distance from the town; and although merely consisting of the side walls and gables of a small plain structure, from its commanding and elevated position, presents a comparatively imposing and interesting appearance. The school of the Christian Brothers is likewise situated on the eastern side of the town, and is calculated to attract the visitor's notice; while the consciousness of the benefit it confers on the rising youth of the neighbourhood calls up feelings of unmingled pleasure in the minds of those who take an interest in the welfare and happiness of the humbler classes of the community. There is a good Sessions House, with an attached bridewell, in the town. The market, which is held on Saturday, is well supplied with the prime necessaries of life; there are seven fairs in the year. It is to me a source of no small regret to be obliged to say that at this time the town presented little or no evidence of advancing prosperity. It was formerly celebrated for the manufacture of woollen stockings, which, although inferior in quality to those of Connemara, were equally strong and lasting. But, except in the rural districts, even this source of employment has become almost extinct. An abbey is said to have been founded here at an early period, over which the renowned St. Luchtighern presided.

Proceeding on the following morning to view the celebrated Moher Cliffs, which are situated on the western coast of this county, I passed through the nice village of Lahinch, about two miles from Ennistymon. This place, which is much frequented in the summer season, on account of its fine bathing strand, being favourably situated on the inner extremity of the Bay of Liscanor, contains several new and handsome houses, and some neat shops, with a good Roman Catholic church, a school, under the National Board of Education, and an excellent hotel, called the Victoria. A new and strong boundary wall runs along the margin of the strand in the immediate vicinity of the

town, within which the broad and ample roadway forms a delightful promenade. At this period of the year, when the seekers after health or pleasure, like summer birds, had flown, the village looked rather dull; but in the bathing season, doubtless, it is a gay and animated place. At about half a mile from the village, after passing some sand-hills and an extensive rabbit-burrow, the tourist will arrive at the ancient castle of Lahinch, which is situated near the edge of the strand. This castle, as well as being a strong defensive fortress, was evidently a private residence of considerable importance, as appears from the style of the windows, which were of square domestic character, five of which, one in each story, are to be seen in the north face of the castle, which is still standing. At the distance of about half a mile from this ruin, the river Inagh, after its junction with the Ennistymon and Derry rivers, is crossed by a substantial stone bridge, of three elliptic arches, with a side bridge of smaller dimensions, and of three round-headed arches, whereby the superfluous waters occasioned by floods and heavy rains are carried off. This fine structure, as appears by an inscription engraved on a flag inserted in the centre of one of the parapets, was erected by the late Cornelius O'Brien, Esq., M.P. for the county, in the year 1836. After passing beneath this bridge, the river falls into the bay of Liscanor, and becomes lost in the broad Atlantic. About two miles from this place the tourist will arrive at the town of Liscanor, which is situated on a part of the bay of that name, and to which vessels of small size can find access. A new Roman Catholic church, of oblong form and plain character, has lately been erected in this village, which shows a small chancel on its eastern end, and four windows in its northern side. It is entered in the same side by a neat porch, vastly superior in its style and workmanship to the church of which it is an adjunct. A handsome belfry rises above the apex of the western gable, while a plain cross stands upon that of the eastern or chancel end of the building. This small town is situated in the parish of Kilmacrehy and barony of Corcomroe. The ruin of the ancient church, which is situated near the village, and in the immediate vicinity of the old churchyard, consists of the gables, side walls, and the finely pointed arch that divided the nave and choir. On a handsome eminence, south of the village, stands the ruin of O'Connor's Castle, which was a strong square fortress of large proportions. It is still in a state of comparatively good preservation, and, from its elevated position, appears an interesting object for many miles on the land, and a striking landmark from the sea. Near this remarkable feature is the handsome cottage, the seat of Charles O'Connell, Esq., which stands close to the edge of the beetling cliff that at this point overhangs the sea. This picturesque and romantically situated cottage, although in an exposed and wild locality, is considered a very healthy residence. Sea Mount, the handsome residence of the Right Rev. Dr. Fallon, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Kilmacduagh, is favourably situated about a quarter

of a mile from Liscanor. The house, which is rented by his Lordship from George O'Brien, Esq., the son and successor of Cornelius O'Brien, Esq., deceased, presents a rich and comfortable appearance, and is surrounded with nice plantations. The tourist will next arrive at Birchfield, the seat of George O'Brien, Esq., and cannot fail to notice the very handsome mansion, which is of quadrangular form, with a nice octangular turret rising on each angle, the summit of which stands one story higher than the main edifice, and is decorated with embrasure battlements; while the mansion on each of its four sides is enriched with an ornamental parapet. The celebrated Thomas Steele, Esq., who was a friend of the late proprietor, and an engineer and architect of no mean pretensions, drew the plan of this building. The grand façade, before which is a rich lawn, displays itself to the south, and is entered from a fine granite platform, which is approached by three or four steps. The grounds, which are of considerable extent, are intersected with handsome drives and walks, while those immediately adjoining the house are richly planted. The various offices are finished so as to harmonise with the style and character of the mansion, being embellished with embrasure decorations. On an eminence in a part of the demesne, about half a mile west of the house, has been erected a very beautiful monument to the memory of the late lamented proprietor, Cornelius O'Brien, Esq. This noble tribute to great public and private worth was raised by the subscriptions of the leading men of the county, without distinction of religion or politics, and consists of a handsome fluted Doric column, based on a square pedestal of massive rusticated granite work, and surmounted by a beautiful urn. The inscription, which records the period of his death, also mentions that he was for more than twenty years the representative of the county of Clare in Parliament. The name of Sir Colman O'Loghlen, as chairman of the committee for the erection of this fine testimonial, as well as that of Mr. Macnamara, as secretary, appears on the inscriptional flag. This very interesting monument is situated immediately south of St. Bridget's Well, a peculiarly rich and celebrated spring, which from time immemorial has been resorted to by pilgrims and pious persons, and by several others who were induced to visit it in the hope of being relieved from various diseases under which they were suffering. An aged and gnarled oak grows beside this venerated spring, whose trunk, passing over it, protrudes through the roof by which it is covered. This ancient tree seems, from its great age, to have lost its vegetating properties, as no branch or bud appears to proceed from it. In front of the place from which the water drips into the reservoir or well is an ancient flag, upon the front of which appears a sculptured cross. On each side of the flagged entrance to this holy well seats have been formed, while in recesses or cupboards in its immediate vicinity drinking vessels of delf and tin are found in profusion by those who may be desirous of drinking from the delicious fount. The greatest

reverence is observed by all who approach its hallowed precincts, those of the male sex uncovering their heads as they enter therein. Indeed, I know of no place, with the exception of Lough Derg, where similar reverence prevails.

At a short distance above and in the rear of this celebrated well, on a handsome elevation, has been erected the family vault of the O'Briens, of Birchfield; this fine space having been consecrated by the Right Rev. Bishop of the diocese, Dr. Fallon, for the reception of the body of the late lamented proprietor, who previously to his decease embraced the tenets of the Roman Catholic Church. The vault, which is of elaborate and elegant construction, is approached by a nicely flagged avenue between two rich and sloping terraces, which are carefully attended to and continuously shaven. On one side of a square pillar of white marble, that rises from the centre of the summit of the vault, is an inscription which chronicles the death of this estimable gentleman, which event took place in the year 1857. On the opposite side is recorded the death of his eldest son, John, which occurred in India, in 1856. A remarkably neat lodge in this vicinity is occupied by a confidential servant of the deceased, who receives a handsome annual stipend for attending exclusively to the cleansing and purification of the grounds appertaining to the vault, the monument, and the holy well. At a short distance north of St. Bridget's Well is an agreeable spa well, above which a nice ornamental turret was erected by the late exceedingly liberal proprietor. The key of the entrance to this well is kept by the caretaker, who resides in the handsome cottage already mentioned.

Passing from the demesne by the back entrance, the visitor will soon arrive at the celebrated Moher Cliffs; and as he approaches them will notice what, in the distance, appears to be a gentleman's residence, whose snow-white walls and embrasure parapet afford evidence of no ordinary care and attention. On a nearer approach, however, he will be agreeably surprised to find that this nice feature is in reality a range of handsome stabling, which the provident generosity of the same liberal gentleman had caused to be erected for the use and convenience of the numerous visitors who come from a distance to view the grand natural scenery which abounds in this renowned locality. Finely situated near the foot, and partly on the side, of the ascending hill that leads to the cliffs, its appearance from a distance is much more lofty than it really is. Here commodious stabling, with a copious stream of clear water, is provided for the horses, which, in the summer season, arrive in great numbers. On the summit of the verdant hill, in the immediate vicinity of the cliffs, a neat and substantial castellated structure of cut stone has been erected as a banqueting-house, where the visitors may dine or lunch. On another elevation at some distance to the eastward, a handsome circular stone edifice, the summit of which is decorated with embrasure battlements, has been built for an observatory, from which extensive and highly-interesting

views can be obtained. The approaches to the hills and the margins of the cliffs are defended by a line of fine flags, which reach breast high and ensure the safety of the visitor, who, without such protection, would every moment be subjected to the most imminent danger, as the sudden decline of the ground near the edges of the cliffs might lead to repeated accidents and loss of life. The obligations which the visitors to this exceedingly interesting place are under to this public-spirited and humane gentleman can well be imagined, when they perceive that more than two miles of ground are thus lined with these remarkably fine flags. Quarries from which they are raised are very numerous in this part of the county, so much so that the flags are used as substitutes for slates in roofing small houses and out-offices. Their faces are very generally enriched with natural vermicular convolutions, which give them a fine ornamental appearance. A poor fellow, who derived his living by performing on the Irish bagpipes for the amusement of the visitors to the cliffs, lost his life about two years since by falling over one of their sides.

A feeling of astonishment, not unaccompanied with awe, takes possession of the mind of the visitor, when the united scenery of the Atlantic and the giant cliffs suddenly bursts upon his view. In the ocean prospect are included the islands of Arran, with the lighthouse on the largest of them, which, although it stands 498 feet above the level of the sea, appears from this elevation comparatively low and flat; while in the immediate vicinity of the nice banqueting house, rising in bold grandeur, the mighty cliffs, whose sides are as compact as if they were composed of metal, and as perpendicular as if they were formed by the aid of the unerring plummet line, stand as an everlasting barrier against the encroachment of the swelling ocean, whose incessant waves lash and assault them in vain. From the summit of these bold cliffs, which extend from the Hag's-Head on the south, to Irishannon on the north—the latter of which is more than 900 feet in height—a man walking on the strand beneath appears no bigger than a bird; while one of the gulls or other sea-fowl, which congregate and breed here, seems like a mere speck upon the surface of the water. Fragments of detached rocks rising in spiral, pyramidal, and various other fantastic forms, are to be seen at certain distances from each other in front of the cliffs. A considerable traffic, arising from the large numbers of puffins and other sea-birds that are here taken, is carried on by the peasantry. The mode by which they are taken from their nests in the interstices of the cliffs, is by one or more persons being lowered down from the summits by ropes, when each person employed in the work obtains an average of some fifty or sixty birds per day. These they divest of their feathers in the first instance, and then convert their bodies into oil, whereby they are enabled to obtain a remunerative compensation for their enterprising but dangerous exertions. That their efforts are not unattended with danger appears from the melancholy fact that one of the poor fellows

thus employed, during the late season, lost his life, the rope by which he was suspended having broken, when he fell from a height of some three or four hundred feet and was killed on the spot. The appearance of the fine, lofty, and sloping verdant hills, as seen by the tourist in his approach to this celebrated locality, is as pleasing to his feelings as the majestic sublimity of their bold and elevated sides is exciting to his imagination. While in this neighbourhood, I heard, from unquestionable authority, that when this property came into the possession of the late lamented proprietor, it was, comparatively speaking, a wild morass, which he, by incessant care and expense, drained and otherwise improved, so as to bring it to its present state of perfection. From all that he accomplished here for the pleasure and gratification of others, we may naturally conceive how herculean were his endeavours to turn it to advantage for himself and his family.

Having finished his inspection of the Moher Cliffs, the tourist's attention becomes directed to the celebrated Spas of Lisdoonvarna, which are situated on the townland of Rathbane, in the parish of Kilmoon, and barony of Burren, about eight miles from Ennistymon. The celebrated oyster bed, known as the Redbank, whose fish is so highly prized in Dublin and elsewhere, is situated in this barony. While at Ennistymon, the tourist may also avail himself of the opportunity to visit Miltown-Malby, which is not more than seven miles distant from it. This small town, which is situated on the western coast, and in the parish of Kilfarboy, and barony of Ibrickane, has, within the last century, risen from a mere hamlet to a well-frequented and fashionable bathing-place.

Having, within a comparatively brief period, viewed some of the most remarkable and important features on this part of the western coast and its neighbourhood, I returned to Ennis, where at Camody's excellent hotel I found comfortable quarters. This establishment is exceedingly well conducted, the prompt attention and civility of the servants being surpassed only by the politeness and urbanity of the clever and sensible proprietor. This town is supposed to have derived its name (that was formerly spelt Innis or Inish, which signifies an island) from the insulation of a considerable portion of the north-eastern suburbs by the river Fergus, on the south-western branch of which river the principal part of it is situated. It is said to have been long rendered remarkable as a seat of learning, as upwards of 350 monks and 600 scholars had been supported here by O'Brien, prince of Thomond, previous, and even subsequent, to the arrival of the English in this country. The remains of the Franciscan Abbey, founded by the kings or princes of Thomond, of whom several were interred within its precincts, still present many traces of its ancient grandeur. The principal of these is the fine eastern window, which is upwards of 30 feet in height, and consists of five lancet-shaped compartments, separated by stone mullions, and from its exceedingly light and elegant proportions, as well as its superior workmanship, is

deserving of the highest admiration. In the gable of the south transept are a pair of beautiful windows of a single mullion each, the stone-work of the traceried arches being still entire. This part of the ruin, as well as the chancel end, is covered with luxuriant ivy. In the chancel is the abbot's chair, which, as well as the altar, is richly sculptured with figures in high relief. Several ancient monuments are also to be seen here. This abbey, which was last occupied by Franciscan brethren of the Strict Observance, remained vested in the crown for some time subsequent to the Reformation; but was granted in 1621 to William Dongan, Esq. On the demesne which formed part of the abbey lands a handsome house has been erected by Mr. Patterson; which house and the picturesque grounds are now in the possession of the constabulary, who have their barrack here. The Fergus river, which flows beside these grounds, passes beneath a bridge of three arches, called Clonroad Bridge. In the year 1609, as we are informed, Donogh or Donat, Earl of Thomond, obtained a grant of a market and fairs to be held here, and in 1612 the town of Inish was created a borough. The Protestant church, a modern edifice of oblong form, with a pinnacled and embattled tower at its western end, is built upon part of the site of the ancient abbey. A very handsome bridge of a single arch, with cut stone parapets, was built some twenty-five years ago, at an expense of £800, and crosses the river on the site of a former bridge, nearly opposite the abbey grounds. In the vicinity of this bridge is a handsome modern street, lined with fine new brick houses of uniform height and regular proportions, which is called Binden Street. Extensive mills, some of them belonging to Russell and Co., of Limerick, and others to Mr. Ballatine, of that city, are situated on the banks of the Fergus, in this part of the town. In this section of the town also, but on the opposite side of the river, is situated the fine Court House, which is considered to be good value for £16,000, although, as I was informed, it was built under a contract for the sum of £12,000. The contractor who, previous to his having entered into the engagement, was worth £4,000 or £5,000, became by the fulfilment of it a ruined and broken man. It is a handsome quadrangular building, the grand façade consisting of a centre and two flanking wings. A splendid portico, extending the entire length of the centre, is formed by six fine columns of the Ionic order, supporting a magnificent entablature complete in all its parts, above which rises an elegant pediment. The centre, the fronts and ends of the flanking wings, are of pure granite, and the rear of hammered limestone. The columns rest on an extensive platform, which is approached by nine steps that, like itself, are composed of granite. At the extremity of the spacious area immediately in front of the grand centre, is a large Russian gun, one of the trophies of the Crimean campaign, which, at the solicitation of the chairman of the Town Commissioners, was presented to the town. In the north-western suburbs, at a short distance from the

Court House, but on the opposite side of the river, are situated, close to each other, two seminaries or colleges, in one of which, under the direction of Mr. Fitzsimon, the president, are educated a large number of young gentlemen, many of whom are intended for the priesthood, and carefully prepared for entering the college of Maynooth. The other establishment is under the immediate superintendence of the Rev. Mr. King, a Protestant clergyman, and is partly supported by a grant from the trustees of the charity of the benevolent Erasmus Smith. These valuable institutions, which are surrounded with boundary walls, and entered by handsome gates, being enriched with ornamental trees, form remarkably pleasing and agreeable features.

The fine new Catholic church of Ennis, which is also the cathedral of the diocese of Killaloe, is nicely situated at the entrance of the splendid road which leads to the town of Killaloe. It is a lofty and substantial cruciform structure in the English-Gothic style of architecture, the front, quoins, door-jambs, and window-edgings, being of fine granite, and the remainder of the building of a compact greyish stone. It is entered in the western face of the tower, which at present rises no higher than the first story. There is a door in each end of the transept beneath a fine elliptic Gothic arch, over which is a splendid window in the perpendicular style, of three lights, the pointed arch of which is enriched with elaborate decorations; while from the apex of the gable springs an enriched characteristic cross. The windows of the nave, three on each side, are of the same style as those of the transept, and like them, and the arches of the doorways, are decorated with label-mouldings. The interior presents a fine appearance, the nave being divided from the aisles by nice wooden columns of a rich oak colour. The altar, composed of Caen stone, is strikingly beautiful, the sides, on a line with the rich tabernacle, being furnished with elegant statues, those on the Gospel side consisting of the Blessed Virgin, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. Bridget, the latter bearing a crosier, the symbol of high ecclesiastical dignity. On the opposite side appear St. Joseph, St. John the Evangelist, and St. Patrick. Above the altar-screen is a beautiful painting, being a copy from one of the first masters, the original of which is said to have cost £12,000, and has been placed in one of the London galleries. The most prominent figure in this splendid picture is that of our Blessed Redeemer, who is represented in all the meekness of early youth. That part of the transept on the Gospel side of the church is furnished with a deep gallery, which is so admirably constructed as to enable every person who obtains access to it to have a full view of the priest during the celebration of the mass. In the opposite portion of the transept, in which there is no gallery, handsome confessionals have been placed. In front of each section of the transept are two magnificent arches, extending from a strong and handsome central column to the side walls. In the western end of the nave, a remarkably strong and well-built gallery has been erected for the

beautiful and powerful organ, built by the late Mr. White, of Dublin, who was a native of Enniscorthy, in the county of Wexford. This ponderous instrument with its appurtenances, as I was informed by the Very Rev. Dean Kenny, the excellent parish priest, weighs no less than 30 tons. On the left-hand side, within the western end of the nave, and beneath the organ gallery, is an uncommonly fine baptismal font, of black marble. The ceiling of this lofty structure is of rich panelled work, constructed on the principle of the ceilings of the Houses of Parliament, by which the voice of the preacher or officiating priest becomes so far concentrated as to be perfectly audible to the whole of the large congregation.

The convent and church of the Friars of the Franciscan order are admirably situated on an extensive and beautiful piece of ground called Willow Bank, east of the town. The church, which is a handsome cruciform edifice, has been recently rebuilt, or at least so far improved as to present an entirely new appearance. The chancel window is of beautiful stained glass, and the interior in general such as to afford pleasure to the visitor. The convent of the nuns, in which numbers of poor female children are educated, is situated on a portion of this fine park, which is enriched with ornamental plantations. An uncommonly beautiful Scotch or Presbyterian church has been lately erected in the town; there is also a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists, of comparatively long standing, here. A large and substantial school-house, erected in the year 1830, at an expense of £800, of which the National Board of Education contributed £200, is situated in the suburbs, and affords a gratuitous education to some four or five hundred boys. It is, as a matter of course, under the direction of the National Board, and is supported chiefly by funds derivable therefrom.

In the vicinity of High Street, which may be considered the centre of the town, a new bridge was at this time being built across the Fergus, which is considered a great improvement. On a fine open space immediately in front of the entrance to this bridge, a lofty pedestal, based on a massive square platform, was then nearly ready for the reception of the statue of the illustrious Daniel O'Connell, which the patriotic and public-spirited people of Ennis resolved to erect to the memory of Ireland's most distinguished and self-sacrificing public man. In Jail Street, on the site of what was formerly the old county prison, has been erected a new town-hall, which presents a handsome exterior, but which, from want of funds, or from some other cause, had not up to this time been entirely finished.

Between the fine Catholic cathedral and the terminus of the railway, and nearly opposite the spacious fair green, is situated the new county jail, which has been built on the approved radiating principle. It is surrounded by a high boundary wall, and, from the fine open locality in which it stands, appears, for a building of the kind, a striking and agreeable feature. This ancient borough town is situated in the

parish of Dromcliffe, barony of Islands, about eighteen miles from Limerick, and 112 from Dublin. The market, which is held on Tuesday and Saturday, is well supplied with provisions of all kinds, and considerable quantities of grain are purchased, and conveyed by lighters to the town of Clare for shipment; there are five fairs held here in the year. The County Infirmary, with a dispensary, is situated on the north side of the town. The union workhouse is likewise situated in the northern suburbs, and, like most of the institutions of the same kind in Ireland, is every year showing a decrease in the number of its inmates. Here, as in many of the old Irish towns, the streets, for the most part, are contracted and irregular; but taken altogether, Ennis must be considered an improved and rising town. It is at present governed by a body of commissioners under the Towns Improvement Act. The ancient town of Clare, formerly the capital of the county, although three miles from Ennis by the Upper Fergus, is but two miles from it by land. It is situated in the parish of Clare Abbey, in the barony of Islands, and on the river Fergus, about twelve miles from its junction with the Shannon. A castle was erected here at an early period, by Donald O'Brien, King of Thomond, which, as we are informed, was taken and burned in 1641, by Morrough O'Brien, who seized and possessed himself of the lands appertaining to it. On the site of this castle barracks for cavalry have been built, which are capable of accommodating over 200 officers and men, with stabling for their horses. This town is one of the principal ports of the county for the export of corn, by means of the Fergus. Clare Abbey, which gives name to the parish, is about two statute miles from Ennis, and closely adjoins the eastern side of the line of railway from that town to Limerick. This abbey was founded and richly endowed by Donald O'Brien, King of Limerick, in the year 1195, for Friars of the Augustinian order. On the suppression of the monasteries in 1543, it was given by Henry VIII. to the Baron of Ibracken, but in 1620 was granted to Donogh, Earl of Thomond. In 1661 this grant was confirmed to Henry, Earl of Thomond. The church, which occupied the north side of the abbey, was a large lofty structure, with a central tower that divided the nave from the choir, supported on strong and finely-proportioned arches. The windows of the choir were of two mullions, with heads consisting of three circular compartments, but from their cusps being broken, it is difficult to say whether they were of quatrefoil or trefoil character. All the windows of the church, some of which are still in tolerable preservation, had finely-headed Gothic arches.

There are several tombs within the church, but from the accumulation of stones and cement, portions of the fallen roof, by which they are in general covered, I could discover none that dated farther back than the year 1600. The conventual or abbey ruins, which are externally about 120 feet by 120 feet, are much less perfect than the church. In the centre of the oblong range of building which occu-

pied the south side of the quadrangle, and which in all probability constituted the lecture-hall and refectory, rises the shaft of a large stone chimney, that at a distance might be taken for the fragment of a tower. A few perches from the grand ruins on the south-west are the remains of what may have been the gate-keeper's lodge of this venerable institution. About half a mile south-east of the abbey are the remains of a moderate-sized church, the walls of which are thickly covered with ivy. According to an old tradition, it is stated that a subterranean passage led from the abbey to this edifice, which is supposed to have been a chapel of ease to it. Many portions of the grand ruins, like this chapel, are enveloped in mantling ivy, and afford to the intelligent traveller ample and interesting food both for admiration and reflection. The extensive grounds by which the ruins are surrounded were doubtless portions of the abbey lands, and appear to be of very rich quality.

While proceeding from Ennis to Limerick, I stopped at the Quin station, and availed myself of the interval between the passing of the mid-day train and that of the evening, to visit the celebrated ruins of Quin Abbey, which are situated about two miles from that place. This abbey, which is one of the most perfect and complete ruins that I have seen in this country, is situated on a gentle elevation, which slopes down to the eastern bank of the clear river that flows before its western front, which in its southward course, after passing beneath a handsome bridge of three arches, becomes ultimately lost in the Fergus. On this side an ascent of a few steps leads to the abbey church, which consists of a nave and chancel, with a central tower, and a chapel on the south side of the altar. The light and graceful tower, that displays four distinct stories above the beautiful arches, four in number, by which it is supported, whether viewed from a distance or from its immediate vicinity, commands alike the attention and admiration of the beholder. The magnificent church, with its fine chancel and nave windows of two mullions, showing, besides the three principal lights, six lights in the head of each of their beautiful arches, cannot fail to arrest the attention of the surprised and delighted visitor. Nothing of the kind that I have seen can equal the beauty of the matchless cloisters, which form a quadrangle that is adorned on each of two of its sides with a series of arches, fourteen in number, which spring from coupled pillars and ornamental buttresses of exquisite chiseling. On each of the other two sides appear twelve arches, supported by equally beautiful pillars or small columns, that, like their fellows on the adjoining sides, display a charming variety in their style and workmanship, some of them being of octagon shape, some hexagon, others square, and others, again, richly roped. Within these finely-wrought columns and nicely-rounded arches is a corridor, extending around the entire square, which doubtless served as a healthful and agreeable promenade for the brethren of the abbey; the central area on the outside affording ample light and air. The refec-

tory, the dormitory, and a grand room to the north of the chancel, extending respectively on three sides of the cloisters, were entered from the surrounding corridor. Under these several apartments are vaulted chambers. North of the large room is a private passage to a strong tower, the walls of which are nearly 10 feet thick. Portions of the grand altar, the sedilia, the piscina, and other essential accessories to grand churches, are still to be seen, notwithstanding the crowding of the church with tombs and sepulchral monuments. In the chapel is a sculptured saintly figure, and in the chancel the monument of the founder of the abbey, one of the Macnamaras, the native chieftains of the district.

The buildings in general were erected principally of black marble, but the south end of the abbey, which appears to be of more recent construction, is of workmanship superior to the other parts, and is in a state of much better preservation. Winding stairs, one flight of which leads to a now roofless quadrangular space, which formerly, no doubt, constituted a magnificent chamber, or hall of audience, from which there is a splendid prospect, are entered from one of the halls of the grand abbey. The other flight leads to the fine central tower, to the summit of which access is afforded by continuous spiral stairs. Among the sepulchral monuments to be seen here are two of comparatively modern erection, in which are interred two of the bishops of the diocese of Killaloe. At a short distance from the grand ruins, on the opposite side of the river, are the remains of a building supposed to have been appropriated to the accommodation and entertainment of strangers.

About the commencement of the fifteenth century, according to the "Annals of the Four Masters," a monastery was founded here for Franciscan Friars of the Strict Observance, by Sioda Cam Macnamara, which is said to have been the first house of the Franciscan order in Ireland that conformed to this rule; but the buildings, the remains of which still exist, were erected chiefly by Macon Dall Macnamara, Lord of Glancoilean, whose tomb, as before mentioned, is still to be seen in the chancel. In the year 1583 the monastery, with all its possessions, was granted to Sir Turlogh O'Brien, of Ennistymon, and in 1604, as we are informed, the buildings were repaired.

Fain would I have lingered here, but a short day and railway travelling left but little time for the exercise or indulgence of profitable meditation; and, as regards the advantage to be derived from taking notes, with a view of entering into anything like a lengthened description of this truly interesting place, the very attempt to make a selection out of the abundance of materials in the way of architectural features that present themselves, would be calculated to paralyse a person of the boldest nerve, who had not, to a reasonable extent, been schooled in the science and research of the architect and antiquary. The only thing I can venture to do, in the event of my hurried and crude observations ever meeting the public eye, is to recommend all those who

admire the sublime and beautiful in ancient architecture not to forego the pleasure and advantage of seeing and judging for themselves, what very few indeed are capable of truly and faithfully describing.

Quin is a parish in the barony of Bunratty, about six miles from Ennis. In the village, which is near the ruins of the grand abbey, there is little worthy of the tourist's notice, save the Protestant and Catholic churches. The Protestant church, which is of long standing, but which has recently undergone considerable improvement, is a plain structure with a square tower. It is handsomely situated on the western bank of the Quin river, at a short distance east of the ruin which, as an appendage of the celebrated abbey, was rendered subservient to the purposes of charity and benevolence, in affording shelter and hospitality to the poor and the stranger in the old monastic times.

The Catholic church is a handsome and spacious cruciform structure in the Gothic style of architecture, with a nice portico of cut stone. It was erected about twenty years ago, at an expense of £2,000, which was defrayed by general subscription. At the time I paid my visit it was undergoing considerable improvements, chiefly confined to internal decoration and embellishment. The angles of the nave and transepts are strengthened on the outside by fine buttresses, from each of which rises an ornamental pinnacle; while the apex of each transept, as well as that of the nave, is decorated with a highly-wrought Gothic cross. The interior is very beautiful, the fine clustered columns that adjoin the altar, and the part that connects the transepts with the nave, being alike remarkably grand and striking; while the altar itself—which is of Caen stone, with columns of the Cork, Galway, and Armagh marbles—and the elegant statuary command the attention and the warmest commendation of the visitor. The doors leading into the nave and transepts are of elliptic character, with label-mouldings. The windows, three in each side of the nave, are high, and of two mullions; while those above the transept doors, and the three in each of their sides, are of a single mullion.

There are several fine seats and ancient castles in this neighbourhood, among which may be mentioned Dangan Castle, which is situated within a fine demesne, and forms a remarkably interesting and picturesque ruin. This is said to be one of the oldest castles in Munster, having been built by Philip de Clare, from whom the county of Thomond has since been called Clare. It was, with other possessions, granted to Pierse Creagh, for his services against Cromwell, and still remains in the possession of his descendants.

The ruin of the castle of Danganbrack, which formerly belonged to the Macnamaras, but is now in the possession of the Scott family, is a lofty and remarkable feature, of a peculiarly striking appearance, its numerous gables giving it more of a domestic than of a defensive character. At some distance from it rises an ornamental turret, which stands on Mount Cullane, within the demesne of Lough

O'Connell, the seat of the late patriotic Thomas Steele, Esq., from which can be obtained an enlarged and very interesting view of the surrounding country, including a number of lakes, of which that of Lough O'Connell may be said to lie at its base.

On my return from Quin Abbey to the Ardsollous and Quin station, I availed myself of the time still at my disposal, and proceeded to take a view of Dromoland, the seat of Lord Inchiquin, which is about two miles in an opposite direction from this station. It is a very handsome place, and the mansion, a fine castellated structure, one of the most magnificent specimens of a modern baronial building to be seen in any part of Ireland. It is of quadrangular character, and shows great variety in its details, which are finely developed and elaborately wrought. Before the principal front is a strikingly beautiful portico, which is entered beneath an elliptic Gothic arch, above which appear the quarterings of the family escutcheon, surmounted by the arm and dagger, a distinguishing feature in the heraldic emblazonments of the O'Briens. The northern extremity of this front is graced by a magnificent circular tower, with a massive basement of rustic masonry, while the summit is surrounded with a rich embrasure parapet. On the southern extremity is an equally grand square tower, the principal windows of which project considerably. The other sides of the building are equally grand and imposing, but varying in style. North of the castle is a handsome lake surrounded by beautiful plantations. A fine fish-pond is situated at some distance from the principal or eastern front of the castle. On an elevation, which rises above a grotesque grotto of great antiquity, is a remarkable feature, formed by eight fluted Doric columns supporting a circular entablature, surmounted by a grand cupola, on the summit of which stands a figure of the mythological god Mercury. The demesne, which is richly planted, and in the vicinity of the castle laid out in elegant parterres and fanciful pleasure-grounds, comprises about 1,000 acres. In the pleasure-grounds, which abound in trees and shrubs of every variety, and of every kind that can be grown or nurtured in this country, alcoves and rustic seats have been prepared for the visitors to this grand place, a visit to which will amply repay the tourist and the man of refined taste. Nor need those who are desirous of viewing and examining its combined and unquestionable beauties entertain the notion that they will be looked upon in the light of trespassers, as the liberal and enlightened proprietor gives the fullest permission to the humblest in station, as well as the most exalted in rank, to walk through the whole demesne and pleasure-grounds without the slightest hindrance. The Quin river, in its devious windings, flows through portions of this fine demesne. Returning from Dromoland, I was just in time for the last train to Limerick, by which I proceeded to that fine city.

Proceeding at ten o'clock next morning by the Foynes railway, and the steamboat then in attendance on the train, to Kilrush, I had

another opportunity of seeing to advantage the harbour of Foynes so much spoken of, and so greatly appreciated as a capacious and safe haven for the largest class of ocean steamers, and therefore so admirably calculated for a packet station. Leaving this fine roadstead by an uncommonly fleet steamboat, we sailed for Kilrush, where, after stopping for a few minutes to land passengers at Tarbert pier, we arrived, in an almost incredibly short space of time, by our beautiful craft, the *Kelpie*, which, for her size, possesses immense power, and runs at the rate of nearly twenty miles an hour. The pier of Kilrush is of great strength, and well suited to the purposes for which it was erected, as it affords shelter and protection, united with ample accommodation, to the vessels trading to the port, and is about a statute mile from the town, which is situated on a creek or inlet of the Shannon, to which vessels of comparatively small size obtain access at high water; but when the tide is out this creek presents the appearance of a small river, the banks of which are lined with mud, and so shallow as to be insufficient to float a cock-boat. The town of Kilrush appears to considerable advantage, and shows unmistakable evidence of progressive and recent improvement. This very agreeable state of things is attributable, in a great measure, to the liberality and public spirit of Colonel Vandeleur, at this time one of the members of parliament for the county, who is the owner of the property on which the town stands. The streets in general are wide and commodious, and the houses, especially those that line the main street, being large and well built, show to much advantage. The principal or main street leads from the quay to a fine open area or square, in the centre of which is a market-house, wherein, as well as in the surrounding space, the market for the town is held on Saturday. There are three fairs in the year. There is a brewery in the town, and also a steam-mill. A Court House, in which quarter sessions are held, was erected here, in the year 1831, on a site given by Mr. Vandeleur. There is also a bridewell in the town. The union workhouse, which was showing a gradual diminution in the number of its inmates, is situated on the road leading to Kilkee, at a short distance from the town. The Protestant church, a comparatively modern structure, with an embattled tower decorated with pinnacles, is nicely situated at the eastern extremity of the town, and is surrounded with rich and handsome plantations. The Catholic church, a lofty and massive cruciform edifice, in the Norman-Gothic style of architecture, is favourably situated, and by far the most important and imposing feature in the town. The chancel window, which is of stained glass, is of large proportions and triple character; while those in the ends of the transept are of corresponding style and similar size. There are three windows of a single light in each side of the nave, and one of a single mullion in the nave side of each transept. The principal or nave entrance is by a deeply-moulded doorway, above which is a fine wheel-window of about 18 feet in diameter. A characteristic tower, at this time raised to its

full height, and ready for the spire, rises at the north-western end of the nave; while the angles of the nave and transept are strengthened with double buttresses. The entrance gate and the side railings, which are very strong, harmonise with the style of the building, the railings being embedded in a dwarf granite wall. A very nice sacristy and vestry were at this time being built at the east or chancel end of the church. The interior, which is very grand, was also advancing towards completion, the panelled compartments of the roof and cross-beams being decorated in the mediæval style so generally in use at present. The grand and side altars are remarkably rich and appropriately decorated, that on the Gospel side being dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, and that on the Epistle side to St. Joseph. Two large Norman arches, resting on a massive pillar in the centre, are formed in front of each transept, in which is a gallery that does not extend so far forward as the outer line of the arches. Much, however, in the way of ornament and embellishment remains to be done. The site upon which this fine church stands was given by Colonel Vandeleur, who also subscribed liberally towards its erection. He has likewise given a desirable plot of ground for the erection of a nunnery, which is considered most eligible for such a purpose, being equally well suited to the health and convenience of the pious sisterhood. This town, which is a parish in the barony of Moyarta, county of Clare, is about twenty-one miles from Ennis, and 130 from Dublin; and may be said to owe much of its importance to its very convenient harbour, which is frequented by vessels trading in corn and other commodities. Its great depth of water renders it accessible to vessels of large tonnage, and therefore it is considered an excellent roadstead, and safe asylum for vessels in distress; while its proximity to the entrance of the Shannon makes it easy of approach, and eligible for ships to put to sea at any time of tide. The Custom House, a neat building erected near the quay and well suited to the business of the port, is under the control of the port-collector of Limerick. Branches of the Provincial and National Banks have been established in the town; and schools under the National Board of Education and the trustees of Erasmus Smith's Charity. Of the several handsome seats in the neighbourhood, that of Colonel Vandeleur, M.P., called Kilrush House, is one of the most important, and is situated in a large demesne enriched with fine plantations.

About two miles off the shore of the parish of Kilrush is situated the renowned Inniscattery, an island, according to the "Annals of the Four Masters," anciently called Innis-Cathaigh, which has been long considered a part of the parish of St. Mary, Limerick. During the early ages of Christianity it was one of the most celebrated places of religious resort in Ireland, a monastery having been founded here in the sixth century by St. Senan. Some writers state that this monastery was founded by the great apostle, St. Patrick, who placed it under the superintendence of his illustrious contemporary. So celebrated was the character for sanctity which this place acquired, that

large numbers of monks and holy men came from Rome to place themselves under the protection of St. Senan, who erected seven churches on the island for his enlarged community, and such was the seclusion and austerity in which they lived, that no female was permitted to land upon the island. It is stated that St. Kieran left the Island of Arran in 538, and became an inmate of this monastery, of which he was the procurator. St. Senan died in the year 544, and was buried in the abbey, where a monument was erected to his memory. Some writers state that St. Aidan was bishop of this renowned place in 580.

This retreat of seclusion and holiness suffered severely from the incursions of the marauding Danes, who, in the year 816, plundered the island, defaced the monument of St. Senan, and put many of the inmates to death; and in 835 destroyed the monastery itself. Early in the tenth century, as we are informed, Flaithbertach, abbot of this monastery, was elected King of Munster. Such was the ascendancy acquired by the fierce Northmen in this part of Ireland about the middle of the tenth century, that they converted this holy island into a permanent depôt. In the year 975, many of these pertinacious invaders having taken shelter here, were driven out, with the loss of 500 of their number, by Brian Boru, the great King of Munster. Subsequent visits were paid to the island by parties of these desperate spoilers; but in the year 1179 it was visited by a party of the English, under the command of William Hoel, Knight, than whom, it has been stated, neither Goth nor Dane could have acted with more vindictive and sacrilegious violence, for he destroyed even the churches. Notwithstanding these repeated acts of atrocious violence, the monastery subsisted till the dissolution of the religious houses, and in the year 1583 was granted by Queen Elizabeth, together with the island, which comprises about 100 acres, to the mayor and citizens of Limerick. Among the numerous and interesting remains of antiquity at this venerable place, is an ancient round tower, nearly 120 feet in height, which, although split from the summit to the base by a stroke of lightning, still stands erect, defying, as it were, the fury of the elements, the withering and all-conquering hand of time, and by its power of resistance continuing to form a distinguishing feature in the sublime scenery of the Shannon, and a useful beacon for the navigators of that noble river. There are also to be seen the remains of the seven churches, and several cells of the ancient monastery; and likewise some remains of a castle, which, as well as the other ruins, are situated on the north side of the island; and, as seen from the road leading to Kilkee present a remarkably interesting appearance. To each of the churches was attached a cemetery, some of which are still used as favourite burial-grounds. In the keystone of the east window of the largest of the churches is a sculptured head of the patron of the isle, St. Senan. An ancient bell, covered with a strong coating of silver and ornamented with several figures in relief, was found here,

and has been carefully preserved by the family of Keane, the lessees of the island. This bell is said, by O'Halloran, the historian, to have belonged to St. Senan's altar, and is held in such veneration that no person would venture to swear falsely upon it. It has been called the "Golden Bell," and has been used, we are told, on certain occasions for the purpose of discovering petty thefts. Here also is a holy well, to which large numbers formerly resorted on Easter Monday, to avail themselves of the advantage of its reputed healing virtues. From some Latin verses in Colgan's "Life of St. Senan," the illustrious poet Moore is supposed to have taken the subject of one of his popular melodies, commencing with, "Oh! haste and leave this sacred isle." On this renowned island a battery was erected several years ago for the defence of this part of the Shannon; and on the north-eastern side of the verdant swelling hill that rises on Hog Island, which is nearer to the shore, a single piece of ordnance has been recently placed.

To account for the existence of so many churches at one particular place, as in the instance of Scattery Island, and also of Clonmacnois and Glendalough, it may not be out of place to remark, that previously to the middle of the twelfth century the building of large churches had not taken place in Ireland, nor indeed in England, nor even in Europe. Consequently, when these seats of religion and learning had acquired an European fame, and were resorted to by large numbers of students, as well as by the brethren of the monasteries in connection with them, and the increasing number of lay persons whose services were required for various purposes, it became necessary to provide adequate church accommodation. Hence sprang up these several churches of limited dimensions—what they lacked in point of extent being made up for in point of numbers. The exception to the ecclesiastical edifices here mentioned were buildings constructed of timber, intended as temporary structures for the celebration of the sacred mysteries; but no such building as a stately church with architectural pretensions, constructed of stone, had been erected up to the period above stated. Leaving the holy island, the tourist may, with perfect convenience, proceed to the town of Kilkee, a very fine watering place.

Soon after leaving Kilrush, and ascending the hill on the road leading to Kilkee, the tourist becomes delighted with the splendid prospect which presents itself. Here the magnificent Shannon, eight miles in width, displays its ample bosom to the view; while Brandon mountain, in lordly grandeur, with its deep blue summit rising to a height of more than 1,000 feet, is seen stretching onward towards the sea; again, to give completeness to the picture, the isles of Scattery and Hog appear in unpretending modesty beneath; the round tower of other days, and the interesting ecclesiastical ruins, affording ample food for profound meditation. Advancing in this direction, the tourist will notice, near the village of Moyarta, a large and spreading turf-bog, one of the most extensive in the county, upon which a considerable quantity of turf is manufactured, and conveyed by lighters from the

neighbouring creek of the Shannon to Limerick. A new and handsome school-house, which is in connection with the National Board of Education, has lately been built at this village by the excellent proprietor of the estate, Colonel Vandeleur. The country intervening between Kilrush and Kilkee is very tame, and being divested of the pleasing combinations which invariably belong to woodland and park scenery, has but little of interest to recommend it to the notice of the tourist. As he approaches Kilkee, however, objects of interest display themselves, which, from the boldness and sublimity of their character, cannot fail to impress him with feelings of awe, if not of pleasure. These are to be found in the glimpses of the great Atlantic which strike upon his view, and the bold and adamantine cliffs that an all-wise Providence raised up as barriers to resist effectually the action of the ocean, and the incessant beating of its surge. Arriving at Kilkee, formerly a mere fishing village, but now a fashionable watering-place, in the parish of Kilfieragh, barony of Moyarta, and county of Clare, the tourist at first is doomed to experience some disappointment, as that part of the town which immediately presents itself is the portion called at present "Old Kilkee." But on reaching the extremity of the street which may be said to have constituted the old town, his chagrin becomes removed, and his sense of disappointment lost in the grandeur of the scene that bursts upon his view. From this point the swelling billows of the mighty Atlantic, passing between the two beetling cliffs, one on each side of the entrance to the crescent-like bay, and broken only by the ledge of rocks that extends for a considerable distance across its mouth, fall in comparatively subdued waves on the smooth and firm sandy beach of nearly a statute mile in extent; where, in the proper season, the numerous bathers luxuriate in exciting and salubrious enjoyment; and upon which, when the tide recedes, numbers of pedestrians, and juvenile equestrians mounted upon donkeys, indulge in the delightful exercise it affords, and inhale the refreshing breeze that in the warmth of summer is so gratifying to the senses, and so conducive to health. Having indulged his curiosity in gazing on the picturesque marine view which thus presents itself, and turning to the new part of the town, he will perceive, with much pleasure, that several ornamental terraces, occupied by handsome villas and neat cottages, have been judiciously laid out; while the whole place shows by its neat shops and comfortable hotels, and above all its churches and schools, unmistakable evidence of advancing prosperity and civilisation.

Arriving at the south-western extremity of the town, on the road to the cliffs, and nearly opposite the towering headland that forms the northern extremity of the basin-like sheet of water already mentioned, the intelligent visitor will pause to view and admire the beautiful picture then before him, which is comprised of the fine cove, that from this point presents the appearance of a pellucid circular lake, surrounded on a portion of its northern side, and the whole of its

southern and eastern extremities, by a row of handsome villas and neat cottages, the appearance of which declares, more strongly than words can convey, that the hand of refinement and taste has extended its salutary operations to Kilkee. The northern extremity of the cove is not, up to the present, entirely occupied by houses, but ere long, if the owner of the property is not entirely indifferent as regards his own interest, this portion will also be fully studded with handsome dwellings. Such is the aspect the bay presents when seen in the calm sunshine of summer and autumn; but the casual visitor little dreams how greatly the winter tempests may reverse the picture. I have heard, from the most reliable authority, that on such occasions, and especially when the west and north-west winds prevail, the overwhelming rush of the Atlantic surge, as it tumbles into the little cove or bay, through its western gorge, is frightful in the extreme; so much so that the spacious road or carriage-way that extends in front of the encircling houses, and between them and the fine sea-wall which has been erected on the verge of the strand, becomes inundated with the waves, that in their fury threaten the houses themselves with destruction. This rising place, which is so numerously and fashionably attended, especially by the citizens of Limerick, is about to have a railway opened to it from the maritime town of Kilrush, from which by land it is but seven miles distant, although by sea it is some thirty-four miles from it, being situated at Moore Bay, on the western shore; its distance from Limerick is about fifty statute miles, from Ennis twenty-five, and from Dublin 170. In anticipation of the opening of the railway, Major Macdonnell, the owner of the property on which the town stands, is about to build a large and commodious hotel, the plan of which, together with a new terrace and adjoining houses, has been prepared and exhibited at the principal hotels in the town. The handsome site chosen for these buildings is called, after the gallant proprietor, the Macdonnell Terrace. Moore's hotel, which occupies one side of a quadrangular area called Wellington Square, is an excellent house, and shows its front to the bay and to the Marine Parade, which is a continuation of the fine roadway that extends from the bridge that unites this portion of the town to the older part, and leads to what is called the West End. On the verdant lawn before the front bands of music occasionally play, and fireworks are sometimes exhibited. At a short distance in the rear of the hotel is an old and venerated spring called St. Senan's Well, long resorted to on account of its miraculous efficacy in the cure of many diseases; it is enclosed by a small building in the style of a mortuary chapel, with a plain cross on the apex of the western gable, which was erected by the kind and liberal proprietor, Major Macdonnell.

At some distance west of Mr. Moore's hotel is a new establishment called the Warren Hotel, from its proprietress, Mrs. Warren, who for many years kept the well-conducted house known as the Triton-ville Hotel, in the centre of the Crescent. This house was built expressly

for her accommodation by the excellent proprietor, and from her high character and superior management, it will doubtless be considered a desideratum by a large number of the respectable visitors to this rising and very interesting town. It is admirably situated on a gentle elevation immediately above the south-western side of the bay, which can be seen to fine advantage from the commodious dining-parlours and sitting-rooms. The Catholic church, a lofty cruciform building of comparatively modern erection, is finely situated on an elevated site in the eastern part of the town. The principal entrance in the western end of the nave is flanked on each side by a semi-octagon tower surmounted by embattled ornaments, above which, within an elliptic Gothic arch, is a handsome window of two mullions, over which rises the pointed gable, surmounted by a characteristic cross. There is also a door in each transept, over which is a window of a single mullion, with two windows of the same size and style in each side of the nave, and one in each side of the transepts. The altars are very neat and appropriately ornamented, the grand or central one being enriched with a beautiful painting of the Descent from the Cross; with one of the Blessed Virgin above her altar on the Epistle side, and one of the Crucifixion above that dedicated to St. Joseph on the Gospel side. In the rear of the gallery in the western end of the nave is the organ, a sweet toned and powerful instrument.

Immediately west of the church is a large substantial building of modern erection, two stories in height, in which are commodious schools under the National Board of Education, for boys and girls. The Protestant church is situated near the centre of the Crescent, and is a handsome oblong building with a neat porch at the western end; a strong graduating buttress rises on each angle of the church, and a pilaster on each angle of the porch. The east window is of admirable proportions, and, like those in the sides, four in each, is in the Perpendicular style. Near the church is the school, under the direction of the Protestant rector, a remarkably nice house in the Elizabethan style of architecture. There is also a dispensary in the town.

Advancing in a southerly direction from the south-western extremity of the town already mentioned, the tourist will be gratified with an enlarged view of sea-coast scenery rarely equalled, and, perhaps, not surpassed by any which has come under his observation in the most wild and sublime situations. Here, extending for miles, can be seen abrupt and projecting rocks standing out in bold relief, and others in shelving forms, inclining downwards till their extremities become lost in the swelling waves; while the grotesque and gloomy subterranean caverns formed beneath the overhanging precipitous heights by the action of the waters of the Atlantic, throughout a long series of ages, excite in his mind mingled feelings of amazement and admiration. The loud and sonorous roar occasioned by the roll of the waves, as they sweep through these rugged caves, can be only surpassed by that of heaven's own artillery, in the deep grandeur of its

range and power. Masses of detached rocks, which appear as if they had been severed from the adjoining cliffs, rise in fantastic forms at various points, and, from their isolated and apparently inaccessible positions, afford perfect safety to the wild sea-birds that congregate and breed upon the coast. While walking in the vicinity of the "Look-out Hill," the attention of the visitor will, as a matter of course, be directed to the place where the melancholy catastrophe took place, whereby a brave and gallant gentleman, and the lady to whom he was betrothed, unhappily lost their lives. The rocks, from their stair-like character, can be descended in some places to the water's edge, and curious visitors occasionally avail themselves of the advantages they present to view the grand and awful phenomena which the majestic swelling of the undulating waves exhibits. Fatal experience, however, as in the case just alluded to, affords melancholy evidence that this predilection cannot be indulged with impunity. The immediate scene of this lamentable event is an oblong table rock, which is approached from the heights above by a safe flight of steps, and excites more than an ordinary degree of curiosity from the natural phenomenon produced thereon by the rushing of the water, on certain occasions, through a passage beneath, and a hole in the rock, which communicates with the sea. At such times the water is driven through the aperture in the face of the rock to a considerable distance in the air, in the same manner in which the "Puffing Hole" at Miltown-Malbay discharges its crested volume in an upward direction. This rock, which is about 50 feet high, and 30 square, forms an inclined plain with the Diamond Rocks, so called from the crystals which are found in their veins, and is about a quarter of a mile south of the Amphitheatre, which takes its name from its nearly circular form, and the manner in which the projecting shelves of rock are formed, resembling as they do the seats in the area of a building of this description. The aperture, which is of square form, is situated in the upper end of the flat rock, that, although sloping in a comparatively gentle inclination towards the sea, is perfectly safe to stand or walk upon. The party on this melancholy occasion, consisting of Colonel Pepper, the lady to whom he was about to be married, her brother and his wife, proceeded from the heights above to the rock just mentioned. In a hollow or slender trench of about 2 feet in depth, which appears as if cut by the hand of art, in the upper part of the face of the rock, stood the brother of the young lady and his wife, having their faces to the sea, while the colonel and his affianced bride stood immediately below the verge of the aperture, which was the immediate object of their curiosity, with their backs to the water, and without the slightest apprehension of danger. But, alas! the angry spirit of the waters, envious, as it would seem, of their happy prospects, when they were engaged in viewing the sublime and interesting spectacle occasioned by the dash of the surge through the aperture in the rock, gave to the action of the sea an unexpected impulse; and

while they were indulging delightful anticipations of a happy future, consequent upon their speedy union, a huge wave rushed along the face of the rock on which they stood, and, in its recession, swept the unhappy lovers, who had nothing whatever to cling to, into the vortex of the yawning ocean, their death-cry being hushed in its deep and sonorous roar. The other gentleman and his lady very fortunately escaped, having thrown themselves into the friendly hollow, where they found security from the overwhelming force of the sudden wave. The body of poor Colonel Pepper, who had a hundred pounds upon his person, was never found; while the only remains of his gentle companion, or ocean bride, that were discovered, were one of her feet, which was still encased in her boot, and a portion of her stays.

Another and an equally melancholy instance of the danger arising from exposure to the action or swell of the Atlantic wave in this vicinity, occurred in the case of a newly-married couple, natives of Kilkee, who while engaged in cutting seaweed on the rocks of Moveen Bay, in the year 1835, unfortunately lost their lives. In this case the husband stood upon the summit of a cliff, while his wife was engaged in cutting the seaweed at the bottom, and as she filled her basket he drew it up by a rope, in order to obviate the labour and inconvenience of carrying it for a considerable distance round by the rocks. While thus employed, an unexpected wave of immense size swept the female and a faithful dog which stood beside her into the sea. Her husband saw the terrible event, but was at too great a distance to render prompt assistance. In a state of wild distraction he seized a canoe that was at some distance from where he stood, and having, with almost superhuman strength, carried it down to the water's edge, launched it, and paddled towards his poor wife, who, having caught the dog in her arms, continued by his assistance to float; but the weeds which she had cut became unhappily so entangled about her head that they were the immediate cause of her death. On his approach the awful conviction of her decease proved too much for him, as he fell in a state of insensibility, and his weight causing his frail boat to upset, he sank to rise no more. Some women who were on the rocks, having witnessed the dreadful catastrophe, conveyed the melancholy intelligence to Kilkee, from which a boat was sent to bring the body of the young woman to the strand. After considerable exertion the body of the young man was recovered; his leg, having got fast in the cleft of a rock, prevented his rising to the surface. Thus perished this young and virtuous pair, he in the twenty-second year of his age, and she just turned eighteen, proving the truth of the touching words of Thomson—

> "And yet not always on the guilty head
> Descends the fatal flash."

In the vicinity of the Look-out cliff, which rises to a height of more than 220 feet above the sea, and from the summit of which a view

comprising an extent of nearly forty miles can be obtained, a melancholy shipwreck took place on the morning of the 30th of January, 1836, after a succession of storms of a week's duration. The vessel thus lamentably lost — the *Intrinsic*, of Liverpool — was discovered soon after daylight on this fatal morning by one of the coast-guards, while on duty in this neighbourhood, riding by two anchors amidst terrific breakers, in the small bay close under the towering cliff, her mast being cut or carried away by the force of the storm. The distressing intelligence having reached the village, the officer in command of the coast-guard, with his men, and several persons of influence and experience, as well as numbers of the inhabitants, were quickly in attendance, and anxious to render every assistance in their power. But, alas! good intentions alone were all they could offer, as in the midst of the raging tempest no efforts of theirs could be of the slightest avail.

The account given by those who witnessed this terrible disaster is appalling in the extreme. They state that the ill-starred ship, which was about 500 tons burthen, was labouring and straining in the most fearful manner, at one time being lifted on the tremendous waves to a height of 100 feet, and, but for her cables, would have been dashed against the side of the perpendicular rock on which they broke in foaming fury, and again in their violent reaction hurried outwards with an impetus which was thought to be sufficient at any moment to snap asunder her powerful cables. During the short space of time that intervened between the arrival of the people and her final destruction, the supposed captain was seen with his speaking-trumpet endeavouring to make himself heard by those on the cliffs, but from the noise and din of the breakers his efforts were unavailing; at one time, also, a lady was seen to come from the cabin to the deck, and looking for a short time upon the giant cliffs and foaming breakers, she knelt down and raised her clasped hands in prayer, but from the violence of the waves, which at this moment swept two of the hands overboard, she was obliged to retire to the cabin—the poor sailors, by almost superhuman exertions, managed to recover the deck again. All hopes being now entirely at an end, both on shore and on board the ship, the touchingly awful but heaven-approving sight presented itself, when the agonized spectators, who could scarcely retain their footing, by the violence of the gale, knelt down to implore mercy from the God of all goodness for their poor doomed fellow-creatures. Those on board the ship, imitating their pious example, retired to the cabin, as it is hoped, to prepare themselves for the ultimate issue. Nor were they much longer kept in that dreadful suspense which is second only to death itself, as the vessel soon after disappeared in an immense wave. In a few minutes after the gallant ship went down, a gull that hovered over the spot was seen to descend and pick up something out of the water, and then rising to a considerable height, let fall its useless prey; which, being wafted on shore by the force of the

wind, proved to be a lady's glove. Alas! how gladly would the sympathising spectators have clasped the living hand which this friendly glove had so recently sheltered. The only remnant of this fine vessel that reached the shore was one of her jolly-boats, which had her name on its stern. Since this sad event took place, the name of the bay has been changed from its former appellation, Look-out Bay, to the memorable title of "Intrinsic Bay." Of the number of persons on board but one body was ever found, and the first appearance of this solitary remnant of a strong and joyous ship's company was accompanied with an additional loss of life; for on its being observed floating near the Bath House on the north side of the bay, two men incautiously rushed out for the purpose of bringing it in, when it was their melancholy fate to be carried off by the breakers and both drowned. The floating body was soon after washed on shore, and of course decently interred; but those of the two poor but brave men were not found for some time.

As there is plenty of sea-room off this dangerous coast, ships are rarely brought in contact with it, and consequently loss of life and property is of rare occurrence in its locality. Another melancholy exception, however, to this desirable state of things occurred some years ago, when an emigrant ship, called the *Edmund*, was wrecked at a point not far from the town, on which occasion 200 passengers perished, many of whom were natives of the district.

Both of my visits to Kilkee having been made at an advanced period of the season, when it is considered more or less dangerous to navigate the creeks and caves at the bottom of the huge cliffs in the tiny boats or canoes which are in use here, and which, doubtless, are best suited to the place, I therefore lost the advantage of being rowed through the caves, which are considered among the greatest curiosities of this exceedingly interesting place. A very clever delineator of the scenes and peculiarities of Kilkee, speaking of the boats says, "These skiffs are so light, that one man can carry one of them; so fragile that a kick would burst the side; so unsteady that a sudden move to either side would upset them; and yet so safe that they ride in safety over the mountain swells, which would swamp a good-sized schooner." These skiffs, or, as they are called, canoes, are composed of a frame of light timber or strong wicker work, covered with canvas rendered waterproof with pitch and tar. The most approved kinds have slight timber hoops to support the sail-cloth, which is considered an improvement. When by accident the canvas covering happens to be torn, it is not a little surprising to perceive with what facility it is repaired; a sod of turf is at once lighted and held near the rent or torn part until the pitch is melted, a fresh piece is then stuck on the aperture, and the canoe is immediately launched, the water hardens the cement, and without further delay the fisherman enters his boat and rows off. On my first visit to Kilkee, which was in the latter end of October, 1859, I confined my examination of this interesting locality

to the south side, passing onward by the rocks of Duggerna, or, as they are sometimes called, Dugganna, in the vicinity of which the male visitors generally bathe, leaving the sandy semicircle of the crescent-bay to ladies and children. Thence to the Amphitheatre, the favourite resort of fashionable visitors and delicate persons who do not possess sufficient strength and energy to make a more prolonged tour; from this point the path leads on to the cliffs, the Puffing Hole, the Diamond Rocks, and the Look-out Hill, beneath which is Intrinsic Bay already mentioned. From this elevation can be obtained a view of a couple of islands which rise like giant pillars out of the sea, at some distance from the rocky headlands to which doubtless they were at one time attached. One of these is called Bird Island, it being the abode of a variety of sea-fowl, where in the proper season they nestle and hatch their young. The island being about 150 feet above the water, and the sides almost perpendicular, the feathered inhabitants are not likely to be disturbed, save only by amateur sportsmen, who sometimes try their prentice-hands in rifle shooting. The other island affords pasture for a few sheep in the summer season, which, with considerable difficulty, are conveyed to and from its lofty summit. From this eminence also can be obtained a view of the broken and rugged shore of Moveen Bay, and the still more lofty Knocknagaroon Hill, with its ruined telegraph in the background. Returning from the Look-out Hill, accompanied by a friendly guide, the tide being rather high, I proceeded inland to the town, noticing the race-course, of which can be obtained from the neighbouring heights a capital view; and in the vicinity of the town an old Danish fort, about 700 feet in circumference; the moat or ditch being some 25 feet wide, the centre rising gradually to a height of 16 or 18 feet, while the summit, which is nearly level, is about 300 feet in circuit. In this vicinity is one of the spas, which is considered only second to the celebrated chalybeate springs of Castle-Connell; the other is about a mile from the town. On my second visit to this very rising watering-place, I took an early opportunity of seeing the interesting and bold features on the north side of the bay, proceeding by the road which winds for some distance round the verge of the cliffs skirting Farahie bay and lake, and noticing the Horseshoe Cliff, and the lofty castle or watch-tower of Baltard, which was erected nearly a century ago, to give warning should ships bearing the flag of republican France be seen off the shore. From the summit of this tower, to which strangers are admitted, can be obtained an enlarged view of several bold and remarkable features, including Mutton Island; Trummera Castle, as it stands above the strand of Seafield; the fine hotel and handsome villas of Miltown-Malbay; the Isles of Arran, with the Hag's Head, Liscanor, and several other interesting objects, among which may be mentioned the dark mountain of Callan, as it displays its gloomy summit in a more inland direction. Near the site of the Baltard telegraph, is the Lesser Horseshoe, so called

from its formation, an immense excavation about 100 yards in extent round the edge, the sides being of perpendicular rock. Its depth from the highest point of its verge to the rocks at its bottom is about 230 feet, and these rocks being about 20 feet above low-water mark, make the entire height from the low sea-level about 250 feet.

Proceeding by the cliffs from this place to the Great Horseshoe, the tourist will fall in with a curious tunnel or passage, of some 320 feet in length, through the rock which forms a headland between Farahie and the adjoining bay. The centre of the roof has fallen for more than 100 feet, but the ends remaining form natural bridges, one 120 feet, and the other 100 feet in length. Arriving at the Great Horseshoe, the tourist will pause, being filled with astonishment and awe while gazing on its vast and peculiar proportions, and at the violence with which the sea rushes into what may be considered a large bay formed within its prolonged semicircular sides. After the continuance of a violent storm from the Atlantic, the sea rising from the bay rushes over its elevated boundaries, and can be seen falling in copious streams down the sides of the verdant fields which front the village, and flowing into the small river at the foot of the lofty elevation.

North of the bay at this place stands the giant cliff of Corballe, which rises to a height of 220 feet above the low-water line, and from the summit of which extensive views can be obtained, including the Islands of Arran and portions of the Connemara mountains, to the north; while to the south may be seen the lofty summits of the Killarney and other Kerry mountains. Passing homewards by Cream Head, which forms the northern point of Kilkee Bay, and opposite which the Duggerna reef of rocks extends to the distance of one-third of its mouth, the tourist will find additional food for his curiosity, as its dark front is rent and divided by great chasms from the base to the summit. The rocks on the upper part of this bold headland are about 100 feet in height, and are curiously worn into deep channels by the fury of the waves which are dashed up by the frequent storms of winter. Even in summer, when storms prevail, the breakers are here thrown up to a height of 50 or 60 feet, and form grand and picturesque objects as viewed from the windows of the hotels and lodging-houses.

On the next morning—a fine, clear, and bracing day in the middle of September, 1860—accompanied by a reverend gentleman, a Catholic parish priest of the archdiocese of Dublin, I started, after an early breakfast, on a visit to the celebrated Ross Bridges and Loop Head. We proceeded from Kilkee by the fine line of road that sweeps above the cliffs on the south side of the bay, and soon arrived at Dunlicky Castle, which stands in ruined loneliness near the margin of a bold cliff that overhangs the sea, about four miles from the town. The remains of this once important and singularly situated stronghold consist at present of one of the side walls, and a square tower which rises to a height of about 60 feet. The wall, which extends east and

west of the tower, is about 100 feet in length, and shows a door and three windows in the western extension, and one window in the eastern. The materials of which this castle was constructed were of an inferior description, being at once small and shingly; still, from the peculiarity of its position, being protected by the ocean on the west, and by a deep chasm on the north and north-east, it must have been a very formidable fortress, and afforded ample protection to its lordly chieftains, the MacMahons, from the attacks of hostile parties. The appearance of the vortex which forms the termination of the half-surrounding chasm is awful in the extreme, its vexed and turgid waters whirling and foaming in unceasing fury. The view of the ocean and the rugged coast from this point is exceedingly grand and imposing; while, from the intervening line of road, the stupendous and precipitous cliffs, and the detached masses of dense rock which in the course of ages have been severed from them, can be seen to great advantage. Upon the summits of some of these isolated rocky islands sheep are seen to graze in the summer season, being raised from boats by means of ropes.

The road diverging from Dunlicky runs in an inland direction; and, at the distance of seven or eight miles, leads to that part of the coast whereon are situated the celebrated Ross Bridges. This district of country is of a light and poor description, yet it is very thickly populated. Soon after passing the village of Cross, where there is a plain cruciform Catholic church, the attention of the tourist becomes directed to the remains of an ancient church of oblong form, the side walls and gables of which are still entire. This ruin is situated in the centre of a popular burial-ground. Before arriving at the Ross Bridges, the tourist's attention is directed by the guide, who invariably falls in with him at this point, to a very great curiosity, which is the remarkable Puffing Cavern. This phenomenon is formed in one of the circular indentations so frequently to be met with along this coast, in which subterranean caverns have been formed by the action of the sea for countless ages, and into which the waves of the ocean are propelled with considerable force, which occasions a roar as loud as thunder. In this remarkable vortex, which is surrounded on all sides by perpendicular rocks, there are three separate caverns beside each other, into which the waves are thrown with great force, as before mentioned, and in their outward return, especially at the high-water time of tide, when the apertures become diminished, they rush out with amazing fury, and in a rarefied white foam are seen to rise to a considerable elevation. That portion which is propelled from the central aperture is thrown in a perpendicular column to an immense height; while each of the side openings propels the foam in a transverse direction, sending it over the summits of the rocks, which on either side rise to a height of 100 feet above the level of the water. This angry and foaming basin is never entered by a human being, as a boat, even in the finest weather, would be instantly dashed to pieces. In very coarse or wild

weather no one could venture to approach within 200 yards of its margin, as the water on such occasions is known to disturb stones and fragments of rock of over half a ton weight within 50 yards of its mouth. On the occasion of our visit, the day being fine and the tide low, we were enabled to sit upon the verge of the overhanging precipice, and view to the greatest possible advantage the working of this extraordinary phenomenon in its most tranquil state. The depth of the water in this convulsed circular basin is about 90 feet, which is nearly the same as the height of the rock which rises boldly above its margin. Such was the interest excited by the rushing of the broken water in its volume of white and misty foam from the horizontal apertures, that it was with considerable difficulty I could induce the reverend gentleman by whom I was accompanied in this most agreeable day's inspection of the wild scenery along this bold coast, to leave the seat which he occupied on the very verge of the foaming basin. In fact, it was only by forcibly reminding him of the several other interesting objects which awaited our inspection, and of the great scope of country we had to travel over, that I could prevail on him to take his departure from this almost enchanting place, as he watched with astonishment and delight the effect of the sun's rays upon the bright and silvery spray, which appeared a perfect rainbow in miniature.

About a quarter of a mile from these intensely interesting puffing-holes are the celebrated Ross Bridges, which are rare natural curiosities. At a short distance from the lowest of these extraordinary bridges the rushing waves of the Atlantic, bounding over layers of flat rocks, sweep beneath the rocky bridge, and dashing thence in an upward direction, pass under the still higher and larger arch of the second bridge, and again receding backwards, produce various picturesque cascades in the worn and hollowed caves on either side of the foaming strait. These exceedingly curious and extraordinary bridges, although equally romantic and picturesque, are quite different in their general outlines. That which is nearest to the upper end or termination of the natural canal, which appears as if cut out of the solid rock, first comes under the visitor's notice, and consists of a single arch of beautiful proportions, formed of a series of the thin strata of rock which so generally abound in this neighbourhood. According to our guide, the span of the arch is about 70 feet, the height from the bottom of the rocky valley which it crosses is about 50 feet, the thickness of the crown about 18 feet, and the width of the grassy roadway on the top 30 feet. The other bridge is still more remarkable, the roadway being perfectly level, both on the upper and under sides, and hence the extraordinary interest it excites in the mind of the scientific observer, as the utter impossibility of sustaining by any human agency so great a mass as it presents, without a curve underneath, becomes quite apparent. The span of this arch is about 45 feet, the thickness of the crown 9 feet, and the width of the rocky pathway on the top the same as the former, 30 feet. When the tide

is out, the canal or rocky ravine may be perambulated, and the under sides of the bridges viewed to great advantage, which, to the surprise of the visitor, appear to be as smooth as if they were covered with a coat of dark plaster. This appears the more wonderful when, upon reflection, he must bring his mind to the conclusion that the bridges and the canal at one time were portions of the adjoining rock, which was rent asunder by some violent convulsion of nature. Upon the occasion of our visit the tide was at half-flow, which is considered the best time for viewing to advantage this wonderful place, as the foaming waves rush through the entire inlet or canal, which is about a quarter of a mile in length, and varies from about 50 to 60 feet in breadth, while in its course it forms nearly a right angle. The man who possesses a sensible mind and sound understanding cannot take his departure from this theatre of natural grandeur and wild sublimity without acknowledging, with heartfelt humility, the wonderful power of the Divine Architect.

Proceeding from Ross to Loop Head, we noticed, at some distance from the village of Kilbaha, a new Roman Catholic church, an oblong structure, 75 feet in length and 25 in breadth, with a triplet window in each end, and five single lancets in each side. Beneath the chancel window, on the outside of the building, appears what may be deemed a curiosity in its way, which is a small wooden house or van, standing on four wheels, about 7 feet in length by 5½ in breadth, that was used as a make-shift by the parish priest, Father Meehan, for the celebration of mass on Sundays and holydays. The population of the district being very numerous, and the distance from the other chapels of the parish, namely, Carrigaholt, Cross, and Donaha, being too far for the people to attend at their proper devotions, the good pastor was obliged to resort to this expedient for the purpose of accommodating his humble parishioners. He accordingly, on Sundays and holy festivals, wheeled his little sanctuary to an open and convenient space, and there, under its limited shelter, offered up the Divine sacrifice. For some years he was under the necessity of thus ministering to the wants of his flock, as the landlord of the property of the district could not be induced to give a site for the erection of a chapel. At length, however, the proprietor, the late Mr. Westby, consented to give the required site, and within the last three or four years the present substantial church has been built. But the humble wooden structure, which is very appropriately called the "Ark," is still preserved, as a memorial of the zeal and ingenuity of the good Father Meehan, in thus obviating the inconvenience to which his docile people were so long subjected. In the vicinity of the new church just mentioned is a very small and mean thatched school-house, in which there were as many as sixty children. At Kilbaha, about half a mile from this place, is a new Protestant church of plain character, the windows being of the ordinary domestic style, the label-mouldings by which they are surmounted being the only traits whereby it is distinguished

from a modern dwelling-house. The residence of Marcus Keane, Esq. —the agent and son-in-law of the late proprietor, Mr. Westby—a new square mansion, is situated on the side of a fine verdant elevation in the vicinity of the church.

Arriving at Loop Head, a boldly projecting headland, one side of which is lashed by the waves of the great Atlantic, and the other watered by those of the sea-like Shannon, the tourist will enjoy no inconsiderable treat. North-west of the gradually sloping promontory, on the highest part of which is situated the lighthouse, a line of massive rock, which appears, like the Ross Bridges, as having been severed from the mainland by some violent natural convulsion, forms a breastwork or breakwater to protect the lofty cape from the action of the ocean. A dark chasm or fosse is formed between this great barrier and the iron cliff, so deep that even the keen glance of the curious visitor can scarcely reach the intervening water at its bottom. From the summit of the lighthouse, which is about 50 feet in height from the fine circular basement to the crowning ball which surmounts the lantern, and 269 feet from the level of the sea at high water, a truly magnificent prospect presents itself, including the great western ocean, as endless in its appearance as the vaulted sky which is reflected on its broad bosom; and the wide entrance to the lordly Shannon, with Kerry Head on its southern extremity. To the south-west appears, in towering grandeur, the lofty Brandon, and at its foot the varied and picturesque Blaskets, with the Tralee mountains in the distance, and near to them the flat islands, the largest of which is called Muckloch-rock. To the north the whole of the iron-bound shore, with its several indentations and giant cliffs, is open to the view, extending to the Look-out Hill, the outstanding and inhospitable Bishop's Island, the picturesque Baltard—which forms a conspicuous landmark—and, in the far-off distance, the Hag's Head, at the southern extremity of Galway Bay. From the balcony which surrounds the lantern, that displays a brilliant fixed light from fifteen lamps, can be seen at night three other lights, two of which belong to the Shannon, namely, Kilkadrane and Tarbert; and the third to the Islands of Arran. From the elevation which forms the site of the lighthouse the gradually declining sides of the bold headland appear to slope down to the water's edge; but when the visitor proceeds to their extremities, he finds, to his surprise, that they are as high above the sea as those which in the adjoining localities had attracted his notice and excited his astonishment.

Leaving Loop Head, and proceeding to Carrigaholt, the tourist becomes gratified by the occasional views of the Shannon which present themselves, and of the bold scenery on the opposite or Kerry side of the river, including the hills and small bay of Ballybunian, so celebrated on account of its curious caves. Arriving at Carrigaholt which is situated at the head of the fine bay formed by an estuary of the Shannon, the tourist becomes struck with the ruins of the grand

castle, once the stronghold of the MacMahons, the native chieftains of the district. This remnant of an extensive and very important fortress is situated on a rocky eminence immediately above the bay, and is in a state of comparatively good preservation; its numerous square windows, as they appear beneath the verdant coat of ivy by which they are enveloped, proving that, in days long past, this stately pile was the comfortable as well as the secure abode of its feudal lord or chief. The venerable ruin and the adjoining grounds are now the property of Henry S. Burton, Esq., who resides in a handsome modern mansion in the immediate vicinity of the castle.

This small maritime town is situated in the parish of Moyarta, and barony of the same name, about twelve miles from Kilrush. A light-house was erected some years since on Kilkadrane Hill, in this vicinity, which displays a red light to the sea, and a fixed bright light to the upper part of the Shannon. The Roman Catholic church, finely situated in an elevated part of the town, is a handsome modern building of cruciform character, with a very rich altar, and side altars, one to the Blessed Virgin and the other to St. Joseph.

Leaving Carrigaholt at an advanced hour in the evening, we arrived at our hotel about nightfall, after such a day's enjoyment as we cannot soon expect to experience. On the next morning, still in the agreeable companionship of the reverend gentleman with whom I made my former day's tour, I started for Kilrush, and at the appointed hour took my berth on board the fleet and fairy-like *Kelpie*, and arrived at Limerick about three o'clock, when, with feelings of reverence and respect, I took my leave of the good ecclesiastic, he proceeding to Moore's Hotel, and I to that called the Clare Hotel, kept by Miss O'Brien. On this evening I renewed my visit to the grand cathedral of St. Mary's, and found that it was progressing favourably; and also to the new and beautiful Catholic Cathedral of St. John's, where the works of the interior were being rapidly carried out—and at an early hour the next morning took my seat in one of the carriages of the earliest train, and sighed farewell to beautiful Limerick.

Here I deem it expedient to bring my work to a conclusion, as it far exceeds the limits to which I originally intended to confine it. In doing so, I gladly avail myself of this, perhaps, the last opportunity which may be afforded me, to give expression to the pride and pleasure I feel in being enabled to say, with truth, that in all my journeys through portions of my native country I have invariably experienced the greatest kindness and courtesy from its fine-hearted, intelligent, and generous people, whose splendid qualities the hard hand of grinding poverty, arising from repeated years of partial famine, could neither destroy nor alter. I have seen the Irish people in their towns, their villages, and their homes—from the palace of the peer to the rude cottage of the humblest peasant—and the feelings awakened in my breast regarding them are those of unqualified respect and admiration mingled with unaffected sympathy. In the sublime manifestations o

Supreme power and Almighty goodness, which display themselves in such variety and beauty, and which give such a charming diversity to our greatly favoured country, I have found more than an equivalent for the time necessarily consumed in visiting and examining them. These consist of the majestic mountains, noble rivers, and extensive lakes, and, in some instances, capacious bogs, which spread over portions of the surface of the island; while its rich and fertile soil, its undulating hills and beauteous valleys, are alike teeming with interest. In my journeyings I have also visited ancient buildings, including ruined castles and holy shrines; and while I have sighed over the faded glories of the former, I have sometimes breathed a prayer within the sacred precincts of the latter.

While thus engaged in meditating upon the mutability of terrestrial things, and occasionally deploring the ruin that had fallen on these renowned fanes, I have found comparative consolation when I called to my recollection the several monuments of piety and devotion which are every day springing into existence, despite the grinding pressure of the times in which we live. These, with the various educational establishments of recent foundation—including the nunneries with their various schools, the seminaries of the Christian Brothers, and the widely abounding schools under the National Board of Education—cannot fail to give an impulse to that high-toned feeling of patriotism and love of country which will doubtless, in fulness of time, eventuate in establishing on a permanent basis the liberty, the prosperity, and the happiness of our fatherland.

THE END.

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